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Inter-Arab Affairs

Mubarak Meets With Ministers in Addis Ababa

Talks With Sudan's Al-Bashir

NC2607095089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Addis Ababa, 26 Jul (MENA)—In his residence in Addis Ababa this morning, President Husni Mubarak received Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, leader of the national salvation revolution in Sudan, on the sidelines of the 25th OAU summit.

Following the meeting Lt Gen al-Bashir said: The meetings between the two countries have returned to normal, because the cloud which had marred relations has cleared up.

Commenting on the situation in southern Sudan, Al-Bashir said the region is still tense, adding: You will hear good news soon. [passage omitted]

Meeting With Gambian President

NC2607081589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Addis Ababa, 26 Jul (MENA)—In his residence in Addis Ababa, this morning President Husni Mubarak received Gambian President Dawda Jawara. This occurred on the sidelines of the 25th OAU summit currently in session in the Ethiopian capital.

Following the meeting, Presient Jawara stated that they had discussed the summit agenda. He said: Under President Mubarak's chairmanship, progress will be made in resolving African, as well as Middle East issues.

President Jawara added that under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat, the PLO has taken positive steps, which are welcomed by his country. He expressed the hope that the international peace conference will be held as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Interview on Israeli-PLO Talks Cited

AU2407133389 Rome ANSA in English 1232 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, July 24—"There have been talks between the PLO and an envoy of Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir and they took place in Vienna a few days ago," Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat affirmed in an interview published today in the Rome daily IL MESSAGGERO which also dealt with the situation in the Israeli occupied Palestinian territories.

While unwilling to give details on the Vienna meetings, 'Arafat did add, "Shamir says how in these days he has been meeting with Palestinian representatives from the territories. He says these meetings are in secret and against the wishes of the PLO. This is not true. None of these meetings were held against our wishes. We have approved of them from the beginning and after these talks we received a complete report from our representatives."

"Shamir is well aware," the PLO leader continued, "that there are no Palestinians in Palestine who are not part of the PLO, in particular those with whom he has met. Why is he putting on such a show? In order to open dialogue with the PLO far away from the eyes of the Washington administration which he is trying to deceive?" The PLO leader then went on to add that little has yet been achieved in the six months since Washington and the PLO re-opened direct dialogue. Nevertheless, he said that the fact that Congress had rejected a motion to interrupt US-PLO dialogue was "a very important, positive signal."

On the situation in the occupied territories, 'Arafat affirmed that it was "getting worse" and, economically speaking, the past nineteen months had resulted in a loss for his people of some 2.1 billion dollars, which is to be added to the "loss of human life, injury and all those who have been imprisoned."

'Arafat concluded by saying that, despite everything, the Palestinian people were not tired from the "intifadah" uprising and "there is the willingess and determination to continue the intifadah until the (Israeli) occupation ends."

PLO Official Confirms Vienna Meeting

JN2507133389 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya has confirmed to our radio that he himself headed the Palestinian side to the Vienna meeting held at the beginning of this month between PLO members and an Israeli group composed of several Knesset members and notable figures belonging to various Israeli political parties including the Labor Party and the Likud.

Answering a question, al-Yahya said that Eli Halali, Likud Central Committee member; and Helana Chernobroda and Molidor, members of the Central Bureau of the Labor Party, represented the Likud and the Labor Party respectively in the meeting which took the form of a seminar. Al-Yahya added that a large number of Europeans, most of whom were parliamentarians, as well as U.S., Soviet, and socialist bloc figures also took part in the seminar.

Al-Yahya denied that the meeting was held to discuss what is called the Shamir plan. He said the plan was not on the agenda of the talks at all. He stated that the meeting was organized to discuss a previously-drafted document containing seven principles which had to be accepted by each participant before taking part in the meeting. He explained that preparations for the meeting began in 1986, as is made clear in the introduction to the document.

Al-Yahya went on to say that the document calls for achieving peace on the basis of two neighboring states on the land of Palestine; that is, the state of Palestine and the State of Israel, and also on the basis of equal rights for both states.

PFLP-GC's Jibril Cited on Pan Am Crash

AU2607091389 Vienna Television Service in German 1907 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Statements made by Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestinian-General Command, in an interview by Werner Fitzthum—recorded, place and date not given; Jibril statements in Arabic with superimposed German translation]

[Text] For years the Americans and the Israelis have tried to harm the reputation of our organization. How could the Americans attribute the responsibility for the Pan Am plane crash [on 21 December 1988] to us only a few hours after the crash? At that time they could not yet have known whether the crash had been caused by a technical defect or by a terrorist attack. By the way, the experts who were supposed to investigate the crash had not yet left the United States at that time and the investigating committee needed 1 week to find out why the Pan Am plane crashed. The Americans did not wait one single day to hold us responsible for this deed. Either the U.S. intelligence service had seen through our organization and already knew what we were accused of—in this case they would have failed to protect the innocent victims; or they wanted to make us the scapegoat in any event.

We have members all over the world, also in the United States. We are trying to get arms and ammunition from all countries; these arms are then taken to Palestine. We purchase weapons from the FRG, Italy, France, Britain, and from African countries. The Israelis have repeatedly seized weapons in the port of Haifa. We have also smuggled weapons in airplanes. Frequently weapons that are brought by car from European countries are seized.

The group which was arrested in the FRG [in Frankfurt on 26 October 1988] was ordered to acquire weapons and to bring them to Palestine. After the arrest of our comrades, German police knew that the weapons had already been in Germany for years. They were not used against Germany. Furthermore, the police and the public prosecutor repeatedly said that the group did not have orders to act against civilians in Europe.

'Text' of Intifadah Call No 43 Aired

JN2507193789 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 25 Jul 89

["Text of Call No 43, the call of unity, issued by the PLO—Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah in the State of Palestine;" date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Call. No voice rises above that of the intifadah [uprising]. No voice rises above that of the Palestinian people, the people of the PLO. O masses of our heroic people; O masses of the valiant intifadah; O builders of the independent state of Palestine; O you who advanced the Palestinian struggle: During these historic days of your intifadah and while you are about to begin the days of the 21st month of the great intifadah, the Palestinian National Liberation Movement—Fatah—is making preparations for its fifth congress. This has a special significance at this point in the struggle being waged by our people who are confronting the attempts to abort their popular revolt, displaying exceptional valor, and advancing with determination and firmness toward their full national independence.

Fatah had the honor of launching our contemporary revolution through its initiation of armed clashes, as the revolution of our people exploded like a volcano under the feet of the invading occupiers, affirming the permanence of the national struggle until the realization of the legitimate national rights of our heroic people. And the struggle will continue until the Palestinian flag can fly high above Palestinian national soil, which has been baptized by the blood of the martyrs, the wounded, and by the cries of those detained in the jails of Zionist oppression.

On this occasion, the Unified National Leadership, along with the raging masses of our people in the occupied state of Palestine, congratulates all the brothers, strugglers, cadres, and leaders in the Fatah Movement, in all sites of struggle. The leadership appeals to the conferees—who are undoubtedly aware of the delicacy of the current circumstances of the Palestinian struggle—to adopt the political, organizational, and material [al-madiyah] steps and decisions to escalate the intifadah and maintain its steadfastness against the hostile conspiracies, especially what is called the Shamir plan and the attempts to beautify it by the U.S. Administration. The U.S. Administration has continued to delay the adoption of a balanced view of the conflict and to attempt to extricate through blackmail every possible concession in favor of the enemy.

O our heroic masses: The malicious objectives of the ill-famed Israeli plan are now clearly known to everybody—the objectives represented by attempts to evade the growing international pressure on the occupation government. The plan also seeks to split the Palestinian ranks and gain time in order to have more opportunities for killing or curbing the intifadah with the aim of consecrating the

occupation authority and depriving our people of their inalienable rights to repatriation and self-determination, and to establish their independent state.

Despite the severe blows dealt to this plan-conspiracy—among the latest being the EEC Madrid summit resolutions which rejected the Shamir plan and called for the convening of an international conference as a basis for a solution; the results the Likud Central Committee meeting; and the worsening Israeli Government crisis—despite all of these blows, the government of occupation and aggression and the U.S. Administration have not so far recognized the reality brought about by our great intifadah and have continued to display arrogance and boastfulness, seeking to defeat the intifadah to pave the way for this conspiracy.

The escalating measures of repression, including the collective detention campaigns; the insane increase in the number of the wounded and martyrs who fall daily; the house-demolition policy on the largest possible scale; the deportations; the continual tax campaigns; and the restrictions on citizens which make their daily lives a painful experience; are all inseparable parts of the hostile war being waged by the occupation authorities against our intifadah and its growing authority. But the most important part—the height of this war—is the attempt being made by the authorities in the Gaza Strip to bring our kinfolk to their knees and force them to obtain magnetic cards. This is a form of cowardly pressure against the bread and butter of hundreds of thousands of our steadfast people in the heroic strip.

The position of our heroic people in Gaza was a model of and example for confronting the occupiers. Their current firm, collective resistance and iron will in rejecting and destroying attempts to force them to hold these Nazi cards constitute a new medal of honor that the valiant Gaza workers are wearing on their chests. We have every appreciation for and pride in our struggling people in Gaza. Move forward and continue this great heroism to prove to the enemy once again that we are able to defeat it in this battle and make it understand that a peoples' will, when it rises, is stronger than all pressure.

O our struggling masses: The intensive Zionist campaign of oppression against our heroic protectors of the intifadah reached its climax in the decision to fire at our revolutionary masked men. The increase in the number of martyrs and wounded and the intensification of raids and detention campaigns will never succeed in terrorizing a people so determined to keep its dignity. Our intifadah will rage even further, and it will deepen our determination to get rid of the abhorent occupation.

Toward this goal, the Unified National Leadership believes in the need for the following:

—Completion of the building of the popular and specialized committees and the promotion of these committees in all areas with the participation of all antioccupation nationalist forces, nationalist and social figures, and representatives of the social organizations.

—Renunciation of internal differences regardless of their motives, especially family and tribal differences; and refraining from involving our people in conflicts that only serve the enemy and open the way for its agents and henchmen to undermine the unity of our people. The Unified National Leadership denounces the irresponsible practices of some agents and infiltrators in Hebron, Jerusalem, and Gaza, who attacked some women and girls, trying to destroy the unity of our people under the cover of maintaining religion. The Unified National Leadership pays tribute to the position of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which rejected and condemned those practices.

—The Unified National Leadership stresses that the occupation authorities' decision to open schools was an inevitable result of the continuation of the intifadah and the international sympathy it drew against the policy of stultification, which the enemy has been practicing against our people for about 2 years. In this regard, the Unified National Leadership calls on the masses of students and teachers to intensify educational programs to compensate the student for their lost education. It calls on the students, in particular, to be committed to the educational programs as a basis for confronting the intentional policy of stultification. They should also abide by the calls for comprehensive strikes as announced.

—The Unified National Leadership calls for the continuation of popular education programs to complement academic study at schools. It appeals to international humanitarian and academic organizations to pressure the occupation authorities to open universities and institutions of higher education.

—The Unified National Leadership calls on the masses of our people to show increasing caution and alertness to attempts by the authorities to create divisions and splits in the unified national ranks through practices against some nationalist figures of various political persuasions. The enemy and its agents burned a number of cars owned by these nationalsits, threw firebombs at their houses, and distributed forged pamphlets to slander and defame some of them.

The Unified National Leadership calls on the International Committee of the Red Cross and all international human rights bodies to apply pressure on the enemy authorities to force them to adhere to international charters dealing with the rights of prisoners and detainees and improve the tragic circumstances of our people's prisoners and detainees, especially in Meggido and Ansar 3 detention camps.

The Unified National Leadership calls on our steadfast merchants to provide all possible aid to our agriculturists, restrict their purchases of fruit products to our

farmers, open wide the doors of the markets of the state of Palestine to absorb the products of our Syrian brothers in the Golan Heights in the way of apples, and close them completely in the face of Israeli produce.

The Unified National Leadership views positively HAMAS' stand of considering the 9th of every month a general strike in commemoration of the start of the intifadah and its call for further coordination with the Unified National Leadership in its struggles and general strikes.

The Unified National Leadership condemns the practices of the legal authorities, which have ridiculed military courts. This has forced lawyers not to appear before the courts for 1 month. It calls on the legal and human rights bodies in the world to bring pressure on the military authorities to respond to the lawyers' just demands.

The Unified National Leadership salutes the masses of our Palestinian people in the diaspora and calls on them to increase their rallying round our people's intifadah and support it by all means and on all political, media, and material levels. It calls on the professional sides in the PLO's institutions to increase the support given to the intifadah masses to facilitate continuation of their momentum.

The Unified National Leadership affirms its rejection of contacts with officials in the Israeli Government without prior permission from the leadership. It warns against slipping into the trap of accepting secret meetings under pressure. It demands to be informed about the contents of any meeting that takes place under pressure or secretly.

The Unified National Leadership affirms the importance of continuing to follow the agents of the occupation and its aides to deter them from betraying their people. It urges the strike forces and popular committees to contemplate carefully issuing any sentences and not resort to execution except in cases of blatant betrayal and only after confirming the crime of betrayal by confirmation from higher references.

O masses of the valiant intifadah, to continue and escalate your great intifadah, the Unified National Leadership asks you to adhere to the following activities:

On 26 and 27 July—days for struggle escalation and confrontation of the sabotage acts committed by the herds of settlers against the crops of our people in Palestine's cities.

On 29 July—a day for solidarity with the detained Palestinian women during which mass sit-ins will be organized in the Red Cross headquarters. Petitions will be submitted demanding improvement in the situation of the Palestinian female detainees.

On 30 July—a day for general strike in solidarity with our steadfast people in the Gaza Strip and its valiant workers.

On 1 and 2 August—days for social integration during which visits of the intifadah injured in all locations will be organized.

The days on which the fifth Fatah congress will be held should be considered days for special struggle escalation on which the land will rage with fire under the tread of the invaders.

On 9 August—a day of general strike on the occasion of the intifadah's entering its 21st month.

On 10 August—a day for Palestinian media during which seminars and press conferences will be held to expose the policy of muting people.

On 13 and 14 August—days for escalation and confrontations of the occupation soldiers and settlers' herds on all the streets of our beloved homeland.

Glory and immortality to our innocent martyrs.

[Signed] The PLO—The Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah in the State of Palestine

Fatah's Khalaf Views Current Issues

PM2507123789 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jul 89 p3

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, also identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Iyad, by Zaki Musa in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Musa] All attention is now focused on Fatah's fifth general congress. What makes it so different from past congresses?

[Khalaf] This one comes after the events of the past 9 years, with their political and struggle landmarks as well as bloody and regrettable landmarks ranging from the Israeli invasion of Lebanon to the Beirut siege, the Tripoli incidents, the dissent, the camps war, the Amman council and what followed the Amman council, and the Amman agreement. Then there was the landmark of national unity in 1987 and the intifadah [uprising], which is the most important event in the contemporary history of the Arab nation. All these events have details and require a pause for assessment. Let us also not forget the Algiers landmark, particularly the recent conference where our decisions were, for the first time, different from our past rejections. So there will be many events to discuss. Each one of these landmarks requires a pause and assessment and new horizons for the future.

[Musa] Politically, will the congress go along with the recent Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions in Algiers and the political moves that followed?

[Khalaf] We cannot anticipate the congress decisions because the congress will be its own master, but the leadership will embrace everything that has happened

since 1982. We are a democratic movement. There was room in the PNC for all views, and everyone had a chance to speak and express his opinion. The same will apply to the congress.

[Musa] Over the past 9 years, let us say since the fourth congress, you have been through many experiments. Where were you right and where were you wrong?

[Khalaf] Anyone who works makes mistakes. There were mistakes at every stage, but this is not the time to talk about them. The congress will be an opportunity to discuss and benefit from past experience. As regards positive points, it suffices that we are fighting the occupation in every way. We have the means to protect the revolution which has led us to the intifadah. After 1982 the Americans—and some Arabs—imagined that the revolution would be liquidated, and the dissensions and other things occurred.

I believe, however, that the past period, with all its mistakes and its negative and positive aspects, confirmed that the revolution still lives and that, since the beginning of the intifadah, we have been witnessing a countdown against the plot to liquidate us. We are now a force on the ground, not disintegrating in exile like someone who takes slow poison. We have overcome all that and our people and the whole world know that there is a PLO, a Palestinian people, a Palestinian state, and a Palestinian cause. True, that has not been manifested on the ground, but anyone who occupies a position on the world's political map is bound to do so on the ground.

[Musa] Organizationally, is there any intention of increasing the number of central committee or Revolutionary Council members?

[Khalaf] Actually it will be up to the congress to decide, but in principle an increase is possible because we have lost five central committee members. Three of them were great martyrs—brothers Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], Majid Abu-Sharar, and Sa'd Sayil—and the other two are the dissidents Qadri and Abu-Salih [Nimr Salih]. There is a plan, submitted to the preparatory committee, to develop the by-laws and expand the movement's institutions to absorb the new generations. The cubs have now grown up. There certainly are various trends, but one cannot prejudge the matter. The same applies to the Revolutionary Council, which should expand to include new cadres.

[Musa] Will the dissidents be replaced as central committee or Revolutionary Council members?

[Khalaf] As soon as the congress convenes the central committee will be considered to have resigned and the congress will elect a new central committee. We will not resign until the last moment before the elections because nobody knows what might happen to prevent election of a new committee. That is why we will not resign until the moment new elections begin. All the movement's other institutions end with the congress.

[Musa] Does the leadership have any idea about the number of Fatah members?

[Khalaf] Everything you hear about this matter is untrue. It will be a secret congress and some members may even not attend because they will be engaged in certain missions but, of course, those who will attend will represent all the movement's influential elements outside [the occupied territories].

[Musa] To what extent will the movement's fifth congress abide by the political line announced in Algiers and by the initiatives which followed at more than one level?

[Khalaf] We will defend the PLO's political line to the last moment, but if the congress decides differently then we will abide by its decisions. However, some of us in the leadership could decline to accept office as a result, because the line adopted would not be their line. This is not a threat. It is logical. The steps we took in Algiers and Geneva were not met with equal forward moves by the Israelis or, quite frankly, the Americans. People do not just oppose that line; there are those who are asking: What have you gained from all that; there has not been the slightest step toward a settlement nor even a glimpse of hope for a final solution; you got nothing but intransigence in return. So there will be greater opposition. At the congress we will be faced with strong opposition not to the political line but to the results of that line and to the reactions of others to it.

[Musa] Should we in the near future expect some backtracking from the recent peaceful moves and trends?

[Khalaf] I cannot say that there will be backtracking, but I believe the opposition will be strong because we have not seen any tangible steps that could lead to a solution. Over 8 months have passed since the Algiers resolutions, but we have seen no reciprocal moves. Our intifadah is continuing and there are more martyrs, detainees, and wounded every day. True there have been some great stands, such as that of the EC. The Madrid statement was one of the most important statements, but that is not enough. We want the party which can exert pressure and push the wheel forward to act. The United States is still saying that if the Palestinians do not respond to the election proposal, the dialogue might stop. Was the purpose of the dialogue with the United States that we accept that the PLO does not exist and that our people are only the people inside the occupied territories and nowhere else? That is a blind logic. If that were our position in the leadership, what would an ordinary member of the movement think? He has a right to ask what we have gained, and we have a right to try to convince him. However, that does not mean that we will abandon our line even if the Americans block the way and discontinue the dialogue. It is a strategic line and we

believe in it. We would, however, search for different ways of dealing with this world, which does not understand diplomatic and political language. The anger of the Palestinians and the movement members will reflect on the congress.

[Musa] You have mentioned possible recourse to different methods. What methods?

[Khalaf] I will not go into any details, but all options are open to us.

[Musa] You have recently met with the U.S. ambassador. Did you raise this matter with him and, if so, what was his reply?

[Khalaf] The purpose of the meeting with the U.S. ambassador was to discuss all these and other points, but I want to say something about the clamor raised about my meeting with their ambassador. If they cannot shoulder the responsibility of making public a meeting between me and their ambassador, how will they shoulder the responsibility of self-determination? This is a natural question. Regrettably it was the Americans, not the Israelis, who objected. When will the Americans be able to tolerate the word self-determination? We view the matter from that angle. We do not make secret deals. As a political leader, I do not agree to secret meetings. That kind of meeting should be made public so that our people know that we are talking with the Americans, regardless of whether the dialogue itself is open or secret.

I do not care if they refuse to meet me in the future. If the U.S. Administration is unable to accept the responsibility of my meeting with the ambassador, when would it be able to accept the responsibility of a meeting with Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] for example, or of announcing intentions or principles that would lead to self-determination? That would take years.

[Musa] Did Pelletreau raise any particular issue with you?

[Khalaf] The same questions and issues as were raised in the official dialogue sessions. It seems that the Americans advised Shamir to talk about elections and said that they would do the rest. So he talked about elections in the context of a disturbing, abortive, bad plan. After that the Americans forgot Shamir's plan and insisted on talking about elections. That is twisted logic.

We agree to elections, but in the framework of a defined comprehensive plan. Elections to what pupose? Would they lead to a final solution? Let us discuss a final solution and interim measures, then we could discuss elections.

Are we to hold elections and then be told that those elected represent the Palestinian people. What about the four million Palestinians outside the occupied territory?

[Musa] Do you not believe that Shamir's concept of elections has blocked the way to the PLO and its proposals?

[Khalaf] Some say that that is Likud's policy, not the government's. Even the Americans are promoting that game publicly.

We were talking about the Fatah congress earlier on. If the Fatah congress adopted a resolution against the Algiers resolutions, would we be able to convince the world that these were Fatah resolutions, not PLO resolutions? Shamir is the prime minister and the party leader and four of his cabinet ministers were among those who requested the amendments. These amendments have in fact canceled the entire plan, but they still insist on it and want to put it to a vote in the cabinet so they can say that what happened at the Likud meeting was not important.

In my view, Shamir's pledge at the Likud conference was the real undertaking and was the essence of the plan, but they want to waste time. Do they want peace or not?

[Musa] In view of what you have said, how do you view the next phase?

[Khalaf] The next phase will be characterized by endless reciprocal violence that will take very dangerous forms. What has happened in the occupied territory since the bus incident is one sign of that violence.

A young man crashed the bus, using his own violence without orders from anyone. His thinking led him to express his anger at the lack of a solution, so he destroyed the bus—he burned the temple and everyone in it. In reprisal for that incident the Israelis have killed, wounded, or beaten up over 100 Palestinians and racial discrimination has begun; but who is responsible for this violence? Shamir's government, which does not want peace.

[Musa] You visited Cairo and you met with President Husni Mubarak. What was the atmosphere like? Did you agree on any particular move?

[Khalaf] President Mubarak knows the Israeli plan and their tricks. He is very upset and he promised to talk to the officials he meets with. Several proposals have been discussed. We wish him success in dispelling the clouds which prevent movement in the peace process.

[Musa] Are there any new developments regarding relations with Syria?

[Khalaf] Relations with Syria are balanced. They are busy with the Lebanese situation and we are busy with the Fatah congress. We hope that after the Fatah congress new, real, and serious contacts will be held to pave the way for a meeting at a particular level to turn a new page.

I feel that the Syrian brothers want understanding as much as we do. Syria is an important state in the region.

[Musa] What hopes do you attach to the European role in the coming period?

[Khalaf] The Madrid statement was the most important since the Venice statement, particularly as nobody expressed any reservations regarding that statement, which spoke of self-determination for the Palestinian people and PLO participation in the settlement process. It also had an answer to the Shamir plan in the assertion that elections should be in the context of a comprehensive settlement.

That EC statement compensates us for the bitterness felt at the Israeli arrogance and intransigence.

[Musa] What is the scope of the PLO's relations with the new administration in Iran after Khomeyni's departure?

[Khalaf] Relations are bad, and all the attacks and campaigns against us are silly and have nothing to do with Islam. These are discordant Persian sounds unrelated to Islam.

The present situation is really painful. They attack the Americans and then present their checks to them at our expense. Many states raise big slogans against the United States in various ways.

Egypt

Mubarak Holds Dialogue With NDP Members 21 Jul

NC2107151589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—Today President Husni Mubarak continued to participate in the National Democratic Party [NDP] Fifth General Congress. The president initiated a constructive and productive dialogue with the members of the party's committee for organizatinal and membership affairs. [passage omitted]

The president pointed out that the entire world unhesitatingly extends a helping hand to Egypt. He added that internatinal economic organizations, particularly the IMF, are well aware that Egypt is in a different position because it represents the key to stability in the Middle East and the entire region.

President Mubarak stated that the IMF has testifed to the soundness of the Egyptian economy. This, he added, will mean rescheduling debts, enhancing development capabilities, and expanding the ability to absorb more labor power and to tackle all aspects of the unemployment problem.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that the president touched on population overgrowth and its effects on consumption rates. The president stated that economic reform gives primary consideration to the interests of the Egyptian citizen and his future. However, he added, certain factory owners object to reform in certain cases. Hence, we have to stand up to such people to correct their concepts about our economic conditions and our plans to readjust our economy. This can be done through explanation and understanding and through the NDP's democratic role and its ability to communicate with the public. [passage omitted]

The president referred to the current world support for Palestinian rights, pointing out that international public opinion rejects Israeli intransigence and adopts the call for holding an international peace conference. [passage omitted]

The president reiterated Egypt's keenness to preserve Lebanon's unity and independence and stressed that all foreign forces must pull out of Lebanon so that the national Lebanese powers can resolve their differences and restore their country's unity and sovereignty. [passage omitted]

Touching on Egyptian-Libyan relations, the president said they are positive and are making progress. He said that Libya is a fraternal country and that the meetings held in Casablanca with the Libyan leader were based on frankness and trust. Therefore, he said, these meetings produced positive results.

MENA Reports Release of Frozen U.S. Aid

NC2507195889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—MENA has learned that the United States has decided to release half the frozen financial aid of $230 million on 3 August. This portion of the aid, which amounts to $115 million, is being released following the recent customs amendments. The financial aid in question has been frozen since the fiscal year 1987-88.

MENA has learned that, following the aforesaid amendments, the U.S. Administration submitted a request to the Congress to dispense the aid which had been frozen for 2 successive fiscal years on the grounds that there had been no modification of Egyptian economic policies. It is worth noting that unless the Congress objects within 15 days to the request of the U.S. Administration, the decision to release the aid will go into effect as of 3 August.

According to well-informed sources, the rest of the frozen aid, which amounts to $115 million allocated for the fiscal year 1988-89, will be released after a letter of intent has been signed by Egypt and the IMF next month.

Changes in Customs Duties Announced

JN2407111789 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 22 Jul 89 p 1

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Dr Muhammad al-Razzaz has announced that it has been decided that, beginning today, the dollar exchange rate for customs purposes would be calculated on the basis of the monthly average of the rate quoted on the free exchange market. It was also decided to reduce customs tariff categories to alleviate the customs tariff burdens. This will offset any increase resulting from the consolidation of the dollar exchange rate for customs purposes. It was also decided to transfer some goods from the high-tax category to that of reduced-taxed goods to eliminate the contradiction in customs duties levied on finished and capital goods.

It was also decided to reduce the consumption tax on imported goods by 35 percent. All these measures will bring about a financial and economic reform that will reduce the burden of customs duties and will lead to lower market prices. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Fire Reportedly Deliberate

NC2407090289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] A big fire broke out on the third floor of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry building in central Cairo yesterday, quickly extending to other floors. Fire brigades hurried to the scene, while the police launched

investigations into the causes of the fire. The fire is believed to be deliberate, and not due to a short circuit as Egyptian authorities claimed.

'Satanic Verses' Reportedly Sold in Egypt

JN2507154489 Cairo AL-NUR in Arabic 12 Jul 89 pp 1, 3

[Text] The Arabic edition of the book "Satanic Verses" by the renegade writer Salman Rushdie—in which he attacks the prophet, may God's mercy be upon him, and his wives—has leaked into the Egyptian markets. The book is being sold secretly by some bookshops for around 20 [Egyptian] pounds.

AL-NUR has asked Shaykh Fathallah Jazar, head of the Censorship Department at the Islamic Studies Institute, about the department's role in banning the circulation of this book. He said: If the department has irrefutable evidence that this book, which attacks God and his prophet, exists, then it will not hesitate to confiscate any copy that it can lay its hands on.

SAWT AL-'ARAB To Resume Publication

JN2507170389 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Jul 89 p 1

[By Mamduh Qasim]

[Text] SAWT AL-'ARAB, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Nasirite Party in Egypt, will resume publication after a suspension of approximately 1 year.

The paper will be issued in Cyprus in an attempt by the party to bypass the stringent administrative and legal constraints that the Egyptian authorities had imposed on it.

The reappearance of the paper had been expected on 23 July, the anniversary of the 23 July 1952 revolution, but technical difficulties prevented this, so the first issue is expected to appear on the market in early August.

CSSR Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives 26 Jul

NC2607065289 Cairo MENA in English 0620 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—The Czechoslovak deputy foreign minister arrived here early today for a 3-day visit to Egypt.

He will have talks with a number of senior officials here on means of boosting bilateral relations.

Mauritania

Amnesty Urges End to Maltreatment of Blacks

AB2507105289 London BBC World Service in English 0730 GMT 25 Jul 89

[From the "African News" program]

[Text] The human rights organization, Amnesty International, has urged the Mauritanian Government to end the wave of arrests, executions and torture. It said it had received reports from Mauritania of abuses committed by the police and soldiers during the expulsion of thousands of blacks to neighboring Senegal. Hundreds of people died in racial violence which began in April between black Senegalese and mainly Arab Mauritanians. Amnesty said that the victims appear to have been people who refused to leave or to have their property arbitrarily confiscated. It alleged that security forces were responsible for the deaths of many people. Evidence suggested that the abuses were widespread and the situation was particularly grave in the southeast of the country. Amnesty said it was disturbed that not a single person appeared to have been prosecuted despite the deaths of hundreds of people and it urged the Mauritanian Government to conduct a full, impartial inquiry into the security forces' conduct.

Minister Rejects Charges

AB2507190589 Dakar PANA in English 1847 GMT 25 Jul 89

Nouakchott, 25 July (AMP/PANA)—Mauritania has rejected accusations levelled against it by the human rights body, Amnesty International, that it was committing atrocities against its black citizens.

"In the conflict between us and Senegal we have noted that Amnesty International has unreservedly repeated word for word the accusations made by the Senegalese Government against our country which it has taken to be its own," said Mauritania's information minister in a statement issued to the local and international media on Tuesday.

The press statement charged that some of the accusations against Mauritania were in fact crimes which have been and continue to be committed by Senegal against Mauritanian citizens.

It said the reaction of Amnesty International must have been prompted by pictures of atrocities which were reported and seen by everybody in the world, the international press inclusive.

The statement said that a large number of Mauritanians had been killed, some burned alive, others mutilated, heads of children crushed while Mauritanian women were aggressed everywhere in Senegal.

The statement wondered whether Amnesty International is now being used for political ends. "We simply say to Amnesty International that such events never occured in Mauritania and that it should rather be concerned about the situation of hundreds of Mauritanians still being held at ransom and under inhuman conditions in Senegal."

The Mauritanian statement said Amnesty International should rather be worried about the services being rendered to these Mauritanians and the massacres they face as they attempt to reach the border.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Reportedly Extends Cease-Fire 1 Month

NC2507132489 Paris AFP in English 1305 GMT 25 Jul 89

[By Veronica Forwood]

[Text] Addis Ababa, July 25 (AFP)—Sudan's new military ruler, General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, declared a one-month extension to the ceasefire in southern Sudan here Tuesday.

Gen. al-Bashir, addressing the summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), called for peace negotiations, and said an amnesty for armed opponents would also be prolonged by a month.

Gen. al-Bashir's announcement of a ceasefire after he seized power in Khartoum on June 30 and set up a government of revolutionary national salvation signalled his determination to end the six-year-old civil war that has devastated the south.

The general, wearing a business suit, said the members of the new government were "sons of Sudan" who had "no obedience except to the motherland."

"Our only objective was to save the country from economic and political deterioration" caused by continuing war, he declared.

The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has been fighting the Khartoum government to free the mainly Christian and animist south from what it sees as domination by the Islamic north.

Gen. al-Bashir, whose government has so far unsuccessfully sent delegations to negotiate with the SPLA in Addis Ababa, said his government had "no party, no tribe and no grouping".

It wanted only to achieve peace and stability in the country where "the wheel of production and development had stopped," the general said.

On taking power, the government had set a peace initiative as its top priority.

It thus announced a one-month ceasefire throughout the country and a general amnesty for all those who took up arms against the Sudanese Government, urging them to lay down their weapons and come to the negotiating table, Gen. al-Bashir said.

Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda had earlier urged Gen. al-Bashir not to be discouraged that SPLA leader John Garang had so far failed to respond to the peace initiative.

Gen. al-Bashir thanked Mr. Kaunda for his confidence in the new Sudanese Government and assured the summit that he would find a solution to the war in the south.

Hopes had been high in the Ethiopian capital that Colonel Garang would meet Gen. al-Bashir during the summit and agree to open peace negotiations.

RCC Member Cited on Talks With Chad

EA2507175889 Khartoum SUNA in English 0935 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 25th July—Relations between Chad and Sudan will witness concrete development in the upcoming few days, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], Brigadier al-Tijani Ahmed al-Tahir, said.

Brig al-Tijani, who returned from Chad Sunday, told AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH daily that his visit to Ndjamena has reviewed bilateral relations, border issues and ways of controlling hostile activities across the borders between the two countries. Relations between Chad and Sudan have witnessed a period of chill during the rule of the past regime over armed bandits infiltration and tribal conflicts.

Brig al-Tijani said the delegation has asked Chadian officials to coordinate with their Sudanese vis-a-vis [as received] on controlling and preventing any hostile activity against the other side. Brig al-Tijani said the Sudanese delegation has explained to the Chadian president, Hissein Habre, that any relief assistance given by Sudan to Chadian elements was emanating from humanitarian reasons. He said President Habre has expressed readiness to accept any move aiming at a rapprochement between his government and the Chadian opposition. Habre said such a move should be exerted away from "foreign influence."

Minister, Egyptian Envoy Discuss Cooperation

EA2507130889 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] 'Ali Muhammad Shummu, the culture and information minister, in his office this morning received His Excellency Taqiy al-Din al-Shirbini, Egypt's ambassador in Khartoum, with whom he discussed ways of supporting and developing information and cultural relations between the two countries.

The participants stressed the need to resume the exchange of ideas and programs and to develop the services of the Nile Valley Radio to enable it to assume its intended role of communicating information to the scattered Sudanese residents in the Arab Peninsula and the Gulf states.

Following the meeting, his excellency stressed the desire of Safwat al-Sharif, the Egyptian information minister, to support information relations and to mobilize all the information organs in the interests of (?serving) cooperation and putting into effect (?fraternal) relations between the two brotherly peoples.

Officials Discuss New Education Policy

EA2507103589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Colonel Pio Yukwan and Colonel Martin Malwal Arop, members of the Revolution Command Council this morning met the minister of education and instruction, in the presence of educational officials from the southern regions. The meeting discussed the new educational policy of returning the migrant students from the south who are now in the national capital and the northern regions.

The minister stressed the readiness of his Ministry to cooperate completely and make its means and resources available to return the migrant students.

Agreement was also reached on the formation of a technical committee to be chaired by the first secretary of the Ministry, to study the problems and implementation of the new policy to return the migrant students.

Tunisia

President Ben Ali's Republic Day Speech

LD2507204789 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0705 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Speech by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on the 32d anniversary of Republic Day; place not given—live]

[Excerpts] Ladies and gentlemen, citizens: Tunisia is today commemorating the 32d anniversary of Repulic Day and it is my pleasure to present to you my best greetings and to express to you my most sincere wishes for more security for our country and more progress for our people. [passage omitted]

To embody the requirements of the Constitution in the reality of daily life, we accelerated the process of early presidential and legislative elections and we disregarded all the selfish calculatons and the narrow interests to serve the supreme interest of the homeland. These elections were free and open, and our democratic experiment, which we conducted for the first time, came out victorious and strengthened. [passage omitted]

Undoubtedly there are still some fields in public affairs which need to be put right, amended, and reformed, and this is within the nature of things and in the context of the development process. [passage omitted]

As we announced in the 7 November declaration, our people are worthy of a developed and organized political life really based on a plurality of political parties and popular organizations. The Democratic Constitutional Rally, the heir of the Destourian Party which stores records of the struggle of our people stretching over 70 years, has a special responsibility to ensure the success of the democratic experiment and the multiparty system. [applause]

We have chosen in this field, as we did in other fields, the principle of change in the continuation out of our belief that no progress is possible without an accumulation of experiments. We have revised the party's structures, renewed its programs and its methods of action, and we have developed its discourse by returning to the original principles of the national movement. We have also reconciled its generations and brought it closer to society to enable it to assume the burdens of this crucial phase in our history. Therefore we say in all frankness and clarity that the rally is the party of the president and the party of change. [national anthem is sung] Having said that this will not be at the expense of anybody and we will continue to be open to the other parties and all the competent people in the country regardless of their political inclinations and convictions. On this basis, we resolved to give the responsibilities in the government and all posts to all the competent people in the country. While we support—on the basis of our democratic and pluralistic choice—the emergence of organizations and parties in accordance with the provisions of the law, we do not believe in the usefulness of the multiplicity of parties, nor do we believe that this serves the interests of the country in view of the resulting dispersion and discord which inevitably leads to the opposite of what is expected and hoped from the formation of parties, in other words the creation of ties, the strengthening of relations, and the reinforcement of the influential channels of the social forces which guarantee—with their cohesion and unity of efforts the establishment of social and political equilibrium and its continuation. [passage omitted]

We defined the characteristics of the democratic path we have chosen in the 7 November declaration aimed at building a balanced and modern society based on rights, justice, freedom, people's sovereignty, individual and collective discipline, the total compliance with the law, and the combat of all forms of (?abuse). We want, through the democratic orientation which we are endeavoring to entrench on a sound basis, to provide an atmosphere which encourages all the forces in the country to face up to the economic and social problems which are preoccupying citizens in their daily life.

In order to achieve this goal, we are in the process of devising the new development plan—in terms of the eighth plan and the next 2 decades—which is aimed

essentially at continuing the restructuring of the Tunisian economy and reinforcing its efficiency to enable ourselves to overcome the numerous challenges facing us. Employment is at the top of these challenges, especially since the efforts to create jobs have not achieved the desired goals as they have not helped reduce the present rate of unemployment nor absorb the increasing demands while job opportunities in agriculture have dropped because of poorer crops caused by drought. If the situation continues as it is and if we do not control the population growth, this situation will get worse in the future. [passage omitted]

It is necessary to compensate for the imitation of the domestic market by conquering external markets and to compensate for the low volume of domestic savings and keep the volume of our foreign debts within reasonable limits by attracting foreign capital. However, the development of exports and the attraction of capital and modern technology require a suitable climate, a modern administration and an efficient economy capable of competing with quantity and quality. [passage omitted]

Ladies and Gentlemen: We are duty-bound to double our efforts to rationalize expenditure and increase savings in order to finance investment and support production because there is no future for a people who consume more than they produce. [passage omitted]

Our country is situated in a sensitive area of the world. The Arab Maghreb is striving for unification, similar to the many efforts being made in the Arab East to bring about cooperation and integration. The EC is about to bring out a unified, marked, and new political entity. The entire world around us—East and West—is about to witness great transformations difficult for one to imagine their dimensions and limits. While we have worked and are still working to perpetuate our Islamic Arab identity and to consolidate our country in its natural environment, we are striving for openness and the development of the relations of friendship and cooperation with the fraternal and friendly countries. We have particularly participated in the development of the Maghreb action and are now at the stage of establishing the structures and the federation among the fraternal countries and the realization of integration in many vital sectors. We are continuing our efforts to bolster bilateral cooperation with our brothers in the great Arab Maghreb; what we have carried out particularly with fraternal Libya aims at finding a texture of basic integrated interests from which we cannot retreat and which contribute toward the establishment of the aspired Arab unity.

We have seriously participated in all the efforts that aimed at cleansing the Arab climates. We are working to see the era of fraternal reconciliations attain new prospects in Arab solidarity. The return of fraternal Egypt to the Arab rank will increase the chances of success of this solidarity and integration.

We have given the just Palestinian issue a special position. We have followed with interest the development and cohesion being witnessed by this issue. We have great hopes of seeing this issue doubling its diplomatic gains including the Palestinian-American dialogue which Tunisia has been eager to provide the setting for its start and continuation, and to consolidate the efforts to mobilize the international opinion to bring about pressures to put an end to this historic tragedy.

In our Arab region our eyes are directed also to the painful situation being witnessed by fraternal Lebanon as a result of the bloody fighting there and its daily sufferings from the aftermath of destruction and homelessness amid real dangers warning of more fragmentation. Tunisia, which has always supported all the Arab efforts to save this fraternal country on the basis of national reconciliation and has played its role fully within the framework of the Arab six-man committee, expressed hope for the success of the tripartite Arab committee in its urgent efforts to solve this problem within the framework of respecting the Arabism of Lebanon, and its territorial integrity and the unity of its people and establishments.

At this moment when we in Tunisia are celebrating Republic Day, we address a greeting of respect and support to the people of the fraternal people of South Africa who are struggling against racism under the leadership of the African National Council. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Amir Leaves for Saudi Arabia

JN2507162589 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Manama, July 25 (GNA)—H. H. [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah left here today for Jeddah accompanied by Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah.

During the visit, H. H. the Amir will hold talks with Custodian of the Two Holy Shrines King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz on brotherly relations, Gulf, Arab and international issues as well as issues of common concern.

H. H. the amir was seen off by crown prince and commander-in-chief of the Defence Force, ministers, top civil and military officials and Saudi charge d'affaires to Bahrain Humud Bin-Nadir.

H. H. the amir is accompanied by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalid Al Khalifah, Chief of the Amiri Diwan Yusuf Rahmah al-Dubari, other officials and a press delegation.

Arrives in Jeddah

JN2507193189 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Jeddah, July 25 (GNA)—H. H. the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah accompanied by the Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah arrived in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, today for talks with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia on the brotherly relations between the two countries and issues of mutual interest.

H. H. the amir was received upon his arrival by King Fahd, Second deputy premier and Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and other top officials.

The Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, the Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalid Al Khalifah, head of the Amiri Court Yusuf Rahmah al- Dusari, a number of officials and an information delegaton.

Meets Saudi King

JN2507193589 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Jeddah, July 25 (GNA)—H. H. the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah and Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia held a meeting at al-Hamra Palace today.

Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Justice and Islamic Affairs Minister Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalid Al Khalifah, and Head of the Amiri Court Yusuf Rahmah al-Dusari attended the meeting on the Bahraini side.

On the Saudi side, the meeting was attended by Second Deputy Premier, Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Finance and National Economy Minister Muhammad Aba al-Khayl and Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister and Acting Planning Minister Hisham Nazir.

The meeting reviewed brotherly relations between the two countries, developments in the Gulf and Arab arenas and international issues of mutual interest.

Returns from Visit

JN2507194989 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 25 Jul (WAKH)—The amir of Bahrain, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, returned to Manama this evening from Jeddah following a short visit to Saudi Arabia during which he met with the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Official Arrives on Visit 20 Jul

JN2007105489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Manama, 20 Jul (WAKH)—Brigadier al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of Sudan's Revolution Command Council [RCC], arrived in Manama this morning from Doha on a 2-day official visit to Bahrain within his tour of the region.

He carries message to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, from RCC Chairman Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir.

He was received upon arrival by Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Ahmad Al Khalifah, minister of defense and deputy commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force.

Received by Amir

JN2107100089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Manama, 21 Jul (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, the Bahraini amir, has received a message from Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation. The message deals with developments in Sudan and relations between the two countries.

The message was delivered by Brigadier al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council, when the Bahraini amir received him at Manama today. The meeting was attended by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Khalifah Al Khalifah, and a number of officials.

Following the meeting Brig al-Zubayr made a statement in which he said that he had briefed his highness the Bahraini amir on developments in the Sudanese arena in general and the objectives of the Salvation revolution in particular.

He explained that His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah wished the new Sudanese leadership success in what will bring good to the Sudanese people and provide security and stability to Sudan so that it can take part with the Arab countries in everything that will benefit the Arab nation.

Brig al-Zubayr noted that Sudan's aspirations aim to serve the security and stability of southern Sudan, and to stop war and achieve peace in it so that Sudan can be developed in economic, social, and health fields.

Leaves for Kuwait

JN2107181489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1710 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 21 Jul (WAKH)—Brigadier General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, left here today for Kuwait following a 2-day visit to Bahrain. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Defense Ministry Denies Report on Soviet Arms Deal

LD2407123289 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1022 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 24 Jul, KUNA—A responsible source at the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry denied press reports that the Soviet Union has signed a deal with Kuwait whereby it will supply the latter with a large consignment of weapons.

The United Arab Emirates' newspaper AL-ITTIHAD yesterday published an article which said that the Soviet first deputy minister of defense, Army General Konstantin Kochetov, who recently visited Kuwait, has initialled an agreement according to which the Soviet Union will supply Kuwait with a large consignment of arms. In a statement to KUNA, the source described the story as totally untrue. [passage omitted]

Daily Views Denial

LD2607090989 Kuwait KUNA in English 0803 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] Kuwait, July 26 (KUNA)—Soviet leadership had denied concluding big arms deals with Iran that could affect the military balance in the region, says a Kuwaiti daily Wednesday.

In a news despatch from [words indistinct] AL-QABAS newspaper quoted what it described as high-ranking Arab sources as saying the Soviet leadership had contacted some Arab countries it did not name that it would not supply Iran with advanced offensive weapons that could lead to destabilizing the Arabian Gulf.

AL-QABAS said the assertions were made officially within the framework of meetings and contacts held recently between Soviet officials and a number of senior Arab Officials.

The Soviet officials had affirmed that they would only provide Iran with certain and limited deffensive weapons that would not turn the balance of power in the interest of Iran, according to the paper.

It added that some Arab countries were not convinced with the Soviet justifications, describing them as very suspicious of the new Soviet-Iranian relationship specially after the visit of Iran's Parliament Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Moscow last June.

The Arab side told the Soviet officials that providing Iran with any kinds of weapons is considered as a risk because they believe that such a move would encourage Iran which rejects implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, to a further intransigence in peace negotiations with Iraq.

Sudanese Official Arrives From Manama 21 Jul

JN2107192289 Kuwait KUNA in English 1840 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Kuwait, July 21 (KUNA)—Deputy Chairman of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council Brig. al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih arrived here Thursday from Manama.

Deputy Premier and Foreign minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al- Shahin and other officials received al-Zubayr upon arrival at the airport.

Brig. Salih told KUNA that his tour of the Gulf countries was aimed at briefing the leaders in the region of the latest developments in Sudan "particularly the movement of change" has gained absolute support from Arab countries. [sentence as received] The Revolutionary Command Council seized power last June 30 by toppling the government of Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in a bloodless coup.

"We recovered our morale by the assistance we received from Arab countries. Their sympathy with us is natural because what had been going on in Sudan was a source of discomfort for them" Brig. Salih added.

He refuted foreign allegations that the movement failed to win [words indistinct] stressing "We received support from neighbouring African countries and all Arab countries as well as the Soviet Union."

Brigadier al-Zubayr affirmed that the take-over was warmly welcomed by the people.

The Sudanese official had already visited United Arab Emirates, Oman and Qatar.

Oman

Sudanese Official Delivers Oral Message to Sultan

JN1907144289 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id received an oral message from Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation [SRCCNS].

His Highness Thuwayni Ibn-Shihab Al Sa'id, his majesty's personal representative, was given the message when he received Brigadier General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, SRCCNS deputy chairman, at his office this morning.

The SRCCNS deputy chairman left the country at noon today. He was seen off by Housing Minister Malik Ibn-Sulayman al-Ma'mari and the accredited Sudanese ambassador to the Sultanate.

Sudan's Salih on Southern Issue, Arab Ties

JN2007090589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2030 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Doha, 19 Jul (WAKH)—Brigadier General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, has asserted that a solution for the probem in the south and ending the ongoing 6-year-old war there is a top priority for the revolution, which is convinced that Sudan's progress and prosperity can only be realized in a peaceful, stable atmosphere.

In a statement to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY today, the Sudanese official emphasized the revolution's intention to end this problem, referring to the general amnesty granted to all those who took up arms since 1983 and the revolution's commitment to a unilateral cease-fire, its eagerness to maintain the inflow of international aid to the war- and starvation-affected areas, and its comprehensive concept for establishing peace. He said the new leadership is prepared for talks with the rebel movement at any time and place, adding that there is no justification now for holding the talks somewhere other than the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, given Ethiopia's conviction that peace should return to the region and relations of good-neighborliness should be promoted.

Salih welcomed all mediation and initiatives to end the war in the south. He categorically denied the existence of any deals between Sudan and Ethiopia by which each country will help the other solve its internal problems and armed disputes. He said that Sudan supports any effort to unite the Arabs and realize Arab solidarity but explained that his country's current worries do not allow it to join any of the existing Arab groupings because realizing internal national unity is the foremost priority of the new leadership.

Salih praised the Arab support for Sudan at all times and circumstances, affirming that such noble stands will help restore normal conditions in Sudan so that it can begin construction and play its pan-Arab role as a factor of peace and amity.

Answering a question on the continuation of the current leadership in power, Salih said the revolution will continue until security and stability prevail in Sudan and the aims for which the revolution was launched are realized, enabling the people thereafter to choose a government and an administration to run their affairs.

Salih noted that the government has completed an urgent plan to extricate the country from its current economic difficulties, affirming that the plan will make an effective contribution toward easing the stifling conditions in living standards, health, and communications.

Concluding his statement, the Sudanese official emphasized the new leadership's determination to foster good relations with all the sisterly and friendly countries, especially the neighboring states, pointing out that the first gift from the revolution to the Sudanese people has been ending all forms of armed conflicts among tribes in the western Sudanese region of Darfur and effecting a large-scale reconciliation among the warring parties there.

Qatar

Sudanese Official Arrives on Visit 19 Jul

JN2007054089 Manama WAKH in English 1650 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Doha, July 89 (GNA)—Deputy Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council in Sudan Brig. al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih arrived here today starting a two-day visit to Qatar.

The Sudanese official was welcomed at the airport by Qatari Minister of Information and Culture Shaykh Hamad Bin-Suhaym Al Thani, Sudanese Ambassador to Qatar Ahmad Yusuf Mustafa and Acting Director of Qatar Foreign Affairs Ministry Protocols Department Ibrahim al-Fadala.

Brig. al-Zubayr said upon arrival that his current tour in the region was aimed at explaining the current situation in Sudan and conditions that led to outbreak of national salvation revolution in Sudan.

He said the situation in Sudan was stable and had the support of the Armed Forces and masses.

Al-Zubayr said there would be a similar African tour adding that leader of the national salvation revolution would make an Arab tour after total stability of the situation in Sudan. Al-Zubayr visited each of the United Arab Emirates and Oman before arriving in Qatar.

Received by Amir

JN2007104989 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0920 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Doha, 20 Jul (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, has received an oral message from Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC].

The message was delivered by Brigadier al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the RCC, when the amir of Qatar received him today.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and minister of defense and Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Suhaym Al Thani, minister of information and culture. On the Sudanese side, the meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying Brig Salih and the Sudanese ambassador in Doha, Ahmad Yusuf Mustafa.

QNA reported that the message explains the circumstances and the basic motives that led to the launching of the salvation revolution in Sudan and the aims of the revolution on both the local and foreign scenes. The message also deals with the bilateral relations between Qatar and the Sudan and ways to bolster them in all aspects in addition to the current Arab situation.

During the meeting, the amir of Qatar expressed his good wishes that the new Sudanese leadership will succeed in its major aims of achieving the aspirations of the fraternal Sudanese people for prosperity and stability and of resuming Sudan's pan-Arab role in supporting Arab solidarity and joint Arab action.

Departs 20 Jul

JN2007110589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0925 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Doha, 20 Jul (WAKH)—Brigadier al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of Sudan's Revolution Command Council, and the delegation accompanying him left Doha this morning after a 2-day official visit to the State of Qatar.

He was seen off by Information and Culture Minister Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Suhaym Al Thani.

Yemen Arab Republic

Ministers Leave for ACC Meetings in Baghdad

JN2507191789 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Dr 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of economy, supply, and trade, left for Baghdad today to attend the meetings of the economy and trade directors in the Arab Cooperation Council's [ACC] countries to be held in the Iraqi capital 25-29 July. He will also attend the meetings of the ACC trade ministers following this meeting.

In a statement to SABA' news agency, the brother minister explained that the two meetings will discuss cooperation and coordination among the ACC countries in the economic, trade, and industrial fields.

The technical meetings started in Baghdad today on the level of experts from the ministries of economy, supply, and trade of the ACC countries to discuss the timetable to be proposed to the ministerial meeting.

The timetable includes coordinating among the ACC countries in the fields of trade, exportation, and accepted import systems; defining their sizes; and studying the characteristics of the goods that can be included in package deals.

Finance Minister Brother 'Alawi al-Salami also left for Baghdad today to attend the meetings of the ACC countries' finance ministers to be held in Baghdad.

In a statement to SABA' news agency, the brother minister clarified that during the meeting, there wil be coordination among the ACC countries' finance ministers. They will exchange opinions on issues concerning the financial and economic policies of the four countries. They will also discuss joint measures and policies of social and cooperative work to attain rapid increases in growth and development in the industrial, investment, trade exchange, economic integration, and financial and monetary coordination fields for the joint benefit of the ACC countries.

Sudanese Minister Arrives, Makes Statement
JN2507125289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Staff Brigadier General Faysal Abu-Salih, member of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation and interior minister, arrived in Sanaa this afternoon at the head of a delegation on a visit to our country lasting several days.

In a statement to SABA, the Sudanese official said that during his visit, he would explain the real goals that prompted the Sudanese Armed Forces to revolt. He added that he would convey a message to Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and secretatry general of the General People's Congress, from his brother Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation. He also pointed out that the visit takes place to stress the brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries. The Sudanese official was received upon arrival by Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, member of the Consultative Council and secretary of the Standing Committee; Dr 'Abdallah Husayn Barakat, interior minister and member of the Standing Committee; a representative of the presidential protocol; and the Sudanese ambassador in Sanaa.

Received by Salih
JN2507134289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received brother Brigadier General Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih, member of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation and interior minister, in his office at noon today. The Sudanese official conveyed a message to the president leader from his brother, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, on the latest developments in Sudan and the Arab arena as well as relations between the two fraternal countries.

During the meeting, the Sudanese official voiced the appreciation of Sudan—leader, government, and people—for our country—president, government, and people—for its pan-Arab positions and its support of the fraternal Sudanese people under all conditions and circumstances. The president leader stressed our country's support for the fraternal Sudanese people and for the Revolution Command Council's efforts to achieve the Sudanese people's aspirations for security and economic and political stability. The president leader also asked the Sudanese minister to convey his greetings to his brother, Lt Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, and the members of the Revolution Command Council.

The meeting was attended by Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee; Colonel 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of staff and member of the Standing Committee; and Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, member of the Consultative Council and secretary of the Standing Committee. On the Sudanese side, the meeeting was attended by Colonel Bakri Hasan Salih, member of the Revolution Command Council; Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir, assistant secretary general of the Revolution Command Council [title as heard]; and Lieutenant Colonel 'Abd-al-'Azim Nur-al-Din, member of the Information Committee.

Egyptian, YAR Ministers Arrive for ACC Meetings

JN2607064089 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0400 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] The meetings of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] finance ministers will begin in Baghdad today. The meetings will center on studying and exchanging views on the financial and economic policy of the ACC countries within the framework of integration and cooperation in order to achieve development and progress for the ACC countries.

Jordanian Finance Minister Basil Jardanah and Egyptian Finance Minister Muhammad Ahmad arrived in Baghdad yesterday to attend these meetings. 'Alawi al-Salami, finance minister of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], arrived in Baghdad last night at the head of a delegation to participate in the meetings of the ACC finance ministers. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, YAR minister of economy, supply, and trade, also arrived in Baghdad at the head of a delegation to participate in the meetings.

Saddam Meets With PDRY Deputy Premier 18 July

EA1907110889 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] The president of the Iraqi Republic, Saddam Husayn, received in his office this morning, Brigadier Brother Salih Munassar al-Siyayli, member of the Political Bureau, deputy prime minister, and minister of interior, who communicated to him the greetings of his brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemen Socialist Party Central Committee. Relations between the two fraternal countries and methods of further developing and promoting various aspects of these relations were discussed during the meeting, which was attended by Brother Samir Muhammad 'Abd al- Wahhab, the Iraqi minister of interior.

Brother Salih Munassar al-Siyayli is on a visit to Iraq to participate in the 21st anniversary of the 17 July Revolution.

Industrial Cooperation With Romania Discussed

JN1807180189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1558 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jul (INA)—Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, discussed here today with Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Stefan Andrei ways to bolster industrial cooperation between the two countries.

During the meeting, the Iraqi and Romanian sides stressed their joint desire to promote formulus of cooperation proceeding from the relations of strong friendship between the two countries.

It was decided that an Iraqi technical delegation headed by the under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrilization should visit Romania at the beginning of August to discuss the opening of new horizons for cooperation in the various industrial fields and the bolstering of trade exchange.

Jasim Meets Cuban Communist Party Official

JN1807182689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jul (INA)—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command member and official in charge of the command's foreign relations office, today met with Jorge Risquet, Politburo member and official in charge of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee foreign relations office [title as received], and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, Jasim reviewed the march of the glorious 17-30 July revolution and its experience in building the state and the economic institutions and applying the autonomy rule in the Iraqi region of Kurdistan. He also reviewed the administrative and economic experience led by President Saddam Husayn and its positive outcome.

Jasim also discussed the forthcoming stage that Iraq will experience under the legislation of the new constitution and the laws of party formation and publications.

In his turn, the Cuban guest reviewed the experience of his country in the fields of socialist practice and economic reforms.

PRC Textiles Minister Meets President

OW1807011889 Beijing XINHUA in English 2329 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 17 (XINHUA)—President Saddam Husayn today highly appreciated the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and China.

This came in his meeting here with China's Minister of Textiles Wu Wenying who arrived here last night at the head of a Chinese Government delegation to participate in celebrations of the Iraqi Revolution Day on July 17.

"Relations of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and China are to the benefit of the two peoples and to the interests of both countries," Saddam said, adding that he would exert more efforts to deepen and boost such relations.

Saddam asked Wu to convey his greetings to Chinese leaders and expressed his best wishes to the People's Republic of China.

The Chinese minister also conveyed to the Iraqi president regards from Chinese leaders and expressed China's sincere congratulations to the Iraqi Government and people on the Revolution Day.

The Chinese official also spoke highly of the traditional friendship between the two peoples and the good ties of cooperation between the two countries.

Wu said that the Chinese people and government appreciate friendship with Iraq and that developing such relations with Iraq is China's fixed policy.

Finance Minister Meets With Jordanian Counterpart
JN2507161689 Baghdad INA in English 1555 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 25, INA—Iraqi minister of finance, Mr. Hikmat 'Umar, met here today with his Jordanian counterpart, Mr. Basil Jardanah.

During the meeting, means of promoting financial and economic relations between the two brotherly countries were discussed.

U.S.-Iraqi Relations Analyzed
JN2107061389 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 10 Jul 89 pp 9-12

[Article by Fu'ad Matar; all names, titles as published]

[Text] Barring unforeseen circumstances, 1990-91 should be the year of Saddam Husayn in the United States. This is the bottom line of my analysis based on information received from reliable sources in London and informed circles in Washington.

What does this mean?

And what is the background to this conclusion?

On 6 June 1989, an American delegation made up of representatives of leading U.S. firms visited Iraq according to a plan worked out by "the U.S.-Iraq Business Forum."

The strong delegation was led by the prominent banker A. Robert Abboud, whose name appears practically in every international publication concerned with fiscal affairs in the United States and Europe, because he has strong credentials in this field that have brought him close to American decisionmakers.

Abboud is of Lebanese descent and chairs "First City Texas," which may be considered the bank of the group that holds power in the United States at present.

Some American political and economic figures have visited Iraq over the past few years, specifically since U.S.-Iraqi relations were restored. But this is the first visit by a delegation and the first to which such importance has been attached.

The names of the delegation members suggest that it is not just a visit by company heads or representatives; rather it seems to be the economic clout of the United States that made the visit.

The delegation members are: John Remy, deputy chairman of General Motors for the Middle East and Africa; Krappit Arminian, Westinghouse's financial director; Johan Hays, the Middle East operations chief in Mobil City Texas Company; Leonard Angestrom, deputy director of Amoco; James Black, operations section adviser at Paul Hastings Javonskey Walker Company (he previously held the post of the American under secretary of state for the Gulf); T. Louis Austin, chairman of Brown and Roth; L. Jack Horner, chairman of the board of his company specializing in oil operations; Paul Jabir, deputy chief of Middle East Affairs at Bankers Trust Company; David Martin, chairman for prospecting at Occidental; Senator Charles Percy, chairman of Charles Percy Company and Partners; William Vaughan, chairman of M. W. Killog company—a leading name in the manufacture of refineries; Patrick Wierd, head of Caltex Petroleum and chief of its operations—a leading international oil company; James Woods, chairman of Yaker-Hughson; Nathaniel Woodson, Westinghouse general manager; and 'Awdah Abu-Radini, executive vice chairman of First City Texas Bank.

These do not represent all the American economic power, but they are representatives or heads of companies whose annual sales reach $500 billion and sometimes more. The delegation's leader, A. Robert Abboud, told President Saddam Husayn that if these companies were were to combine as an independent state it would rank as the third greatest economic and fiscal power after the United States and Japan. President Saddam Husayn responded to the remark with a witticism that amused the delegation: Do you plan secession? If you do, the man who can possibly help you is al-Qadhdhafi.

Although they do not represent all U.S. economic power, they represent the "Texasism," which characterizes the current U.S. Administration. Reading the addresses of these firms, we notice that most of them have their headquarters in Texas. Among these companies, to name but a few, are Brown and Roth Company; M.W. Killog Company; and Hunt Company, which discovered oil in Yemen and whose chairman—Ray Hunt—is considered very close to President Bush. He was charged with the campaign to raise money during the presidential election battle, which ended in Bush's victory. The great sums of money spent on the activities of the battle and on the election campaign had great effect.

Additionally, there is Robert Abboud himself, who headed the delegation to Baghdad and who chairs the "First City Texas" bank, which enjoys a favorable position with the decisionmakers. Therefore, when this bank, one of the largest in Texas, faced financial problems, the government—with the approval of former Treasury Secretary Baker and the U.S. banks insurance institution—chose Abboud to rescue the bank and offered him $1 billion for that purpose. Abboud managed to raise $500 million in capital and floated the bank, whose assets total around $15 billion.

Abboud's achievement strengthened the Republicans' position in Texas, which gradually began to recover after being weakened by the turmoil in the oil market, which brought disaster to Texas similar to the disaster brought to Kuwait by the money market crisis.

Saying that the position of the Republicans in Texas was strengthened means that the current U.S. Administration's position was strengthened. President Bush comes from Texas, as does U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the secretary of commerce. Scores of important positions in government are occupied by Texans. If the top position is not occupied by a Texan, the deputy, director of the office, or executive director is a Texan. And, because the supreme decisionmaker and his big and small links are mostly Texans, President Bush can save time and be able to face things. He can also be decisive to the greatest degree.

We go back to what occurred during the visit.

Before the delegation arrived in Baghdad, most of its members had the impression that Iraq is a backward country whose president is a man of steel who does not smile, has no sense of humor, does not discuss things, and is kind of person who does not like to hear what others say.

This image was strengthened by the fact that the U.S. media distorted the image of Iraq and Saddam Husayn, and, throughout the years of the war, ignored the good achievements being scored and the growing military status.

This was also strengthened by the wager that Saddam Husayn would be defeated by Khomeyni. For that reason, research centers concerned with Islamic affairs and Shi'ite belief began to grow, paving the way for reports and studies on the Khomeynite phenomenon.

When the delegation arrived in Baghdad, these impressions gradually began to disappear. Convictions began to change, and many members of the delegation began to recall what they had heard from Nizar Hamdun, the first Iraqi ambassador in Washington after relations were restored. Hamdun exerted great efforts to convince U.S. personalities and centers that their impression of Saddam Husayn's leadership is a bit distorted. He was backed in this task by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

For that purpose, Hamdun visited most of the states and held scores of meetings with political, economic, and academic figures. Although he was not fully successful, the "U.S.-Iraq Business Forum" was set up due to his endeavors. By arranging the visit of a strong, important delegation to Iraq, that forum scored a tangible achievement.

Before meeting with President Saddam, convictions began to change. Then came the meeting, from which the delegation members emerged satisfied.

Usually, after the members of a political or economic delegation return to their hotel from their first meeting with an important statesman, they exchange impressions on the meeting either in individual conversations or collectively. Members of the delegation agreed on two things:

First, Saddam Husayn is a pleasant personality who arouses admiration and puts one at ease. Some have admired the way he dresses—the suit, shirt, and tie were very much in order. Someone has described him as a handsome "Dynasty" star; another, who has visited many world capitals, met kings and presidents, conveyed to them oral messages, and participated in receiving some of them when they visited Washington, said President Saddam has an unmatched charisma and that many rulers certainly envy him for this. He added that this president is lucky because he is a strong, good-looking young man who had emerged victorious from war; enjoys good health; and rules an economically and strategically strong country. At the same time, his mind is that of a statesman who understands things readily, is not deceived by appearances, and never abandons caution.

Second, Saddam Husayn is frank, decisive and appears ready to overcome all the gaps of the past. He is intelligent, a man of experience—vigilant to the changes in the world—and creative.

Members of the delegation noticed that President Saddam was able to make each and every one of them feel important. This happened when he asked his private photographer to take a picture for every member of the delegation with him. By this, he pleased his guests and, at the same time, managed to hang his picture in the best places of the offices of influential U.S. firms. The pictures were sent to the members of the delegation while they were still in the hotel. One of these was Alan Stoga, personal aide of Dr Henry Kissinger. If this aide conveys his precise impression about his meeting with President Saddam Husayn to Kissinger, then the originator of the "step-by-step" theory will seek to meet Saddam Husayn, the man who challenged Kissinger and foiled his Arab-Israeli settlement plan by insisting on holding the Baghdad summit and adopting a resolution terminating the membership of Egypt in the Arab League as reply to president al-Sadat's deal with Israel, which was sponsored by Kissinger. Kissinger, therefore, considers Saddam Husayn his adversary, but both men like to take on challenges.

When Saddam Husayn tells the members of the delegation that he is ready to activate political and economic relations between Iraq and the United States and to study joint ventures of interest and advantage to both countries, U.S. decisionmakers should thoroughly examine the man who said this and the country, cause, and public opinion he represents. Influential figures in U.S. public opinion, such as Henry Kissinger, must reconsider some of their analyses and views and come up with new ideas to help U.S. decisionmakers determine how to deal with a new leadership in the Middle East.

We must pause to point out the importance of direct contacts and the fact that broken contact lines in the past activated those who wanted to block the relations.

It can be said in this regard that some members of the U.S. delegation that visited Iraq were under the preconception that Iraq was a closed country, that Saddam Husayn's rule has no future, and other things of this sort. Others, however, were optimistic and believed otherwise, although they had some reservations.

Following their meetings with President Saddam and a number of leaders in Iraq, their concepts changed greatly. Some of them did not wait to return to their offices in various American cities to put down their concepts and perceptions on paper. They did so when they stopped over in European capitals before continuing their journeys to New York, Washington, or Houston. Some of them even began during the flight from Baghdad to London to put on paper some ideas that can be executed in the future. One of them even made a phone call from the delegation's hotel in Baghdad.

Members of the delegation agreed on something in Saddam Husayn's method that drew their attention. He was personally taking notes on paper. In their opinion, this is the method of a practical and very accurate stateman. When one of them shook hands with President Saddam, he felt that he was shaking hands with a strong man, and said: This is a man made of steel. [previous sentence in English] This means that he is a man of steel or iron, something usually said to show admiration.

To continue this subject, certain points or notes can be recorded:

1. The change in the U.S. view of Iraq and Saddam Husayn began to appear in U.S. fiscal and business newspapers. Leading journalists in these papers and magazines began to show an interest in meeting Saddam Husayn. For example, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, whose writings usually give the green light to dealings with countries of the world, is one of these newspapers. Furthermore, a number of television networks in the United States have shows an interest in interviewing Saddam Husayn.

After members of the Senate used to be annoyed when hearing the name of Iraq or news about the Iraqi forces' supremacy in the confrontation against Iran, some of them began to have good things to say about Iraq and Saddam Husayn. This suggests that they are paving the way for a new stand or hinting to Iraq, in one way or another, to invite them to visit and discuss political and economic matters. It is known that most senators have economic interests or connections with institutions and firms; they are interested in working with these institutions and firms because they contribute to their election campaigns.

Will President Saddam recommend extending such invitations and, therefore, can meetings take place and channels of dialogue become active?

It is worth mentioning here that immediately after the delegation returned from Baghdad, the HOUSTON CHRONICLE newspaper published an analysis—which can be described by the popular saying that the letter can be read by its envelope. The headline reads "Iraq—A Promising Market." The analysis reads: "U.S. companies are looking toward Iraq's fertile market to increase sales opportunities." The newspaper adds: "But leading Houston businessmen who visited Iraq say that financing for these sales is an obstacle that has to be overcome."

The newspaper cites the head of the delegation, A. Robert Abboud, as saying: "Iraq's trade with the United States may increase from $1.15 billion to $3 billion in 1990. It is expected to reach $5 billion in 1995." It also cites him as saying that Iraq is one of the fastest growing markets and that the United States can invest in it.

The importance of what the HOUSTON CHRONICLE wrote stems from that fact that it is influential in the circles of major firms. It is also the most important newspaper in Houston—the fourth biggest U.S. city in population and the city of President Bush, the secretaries of state and commerce, and the director of national security.

Without hesitation, what I wrote means that the message conveyed to the U.S. decisionmakers by the delegation that visited Iraq has arrived and that it is positive.

[Text] 2. During the meeting between President Saddam Husayn and the visiting American delegation, there were allusions to the issue of Iraqi debts. Some voiced certain proposals, noting that the debt issue should be solved all at once, but the president did not approve of this idea. However, most of the wealthy members of the delegation agreed that Iraq's problem is financial, not economic; that Iraq is rich and will have a prosperous future; and that rescheduling the debts for long periods might solve the problem and strengthen business dealings.

3. During the meeting, the members of the delegation felt that President Saddam Husayn actually wanted to build equitable, strong ties and that the Iraqis were practical because meetings were always held on schedule. There was always an Iraqi desire to voice reservations and raise

points before answering any questions. In comparison to what some of them had noticed during visits to certain Arab states, this trait of Saddam Husayn's leadership was to a great extent positive and significant.

Moreover, the delegation members admired President Saddam Husayn's remarks during the meeting, such as his explanation that he does not pay attention to past problems and events and his observation that, in affirmation of Iraq's desire to coexist with Iran and its renunciation of any resumption of the war, it has speedily started to rebuild the towns at the front, especially al-Basrah and al-Faw. Had Iraq been thinking about a resumption of the war, it would have waited at least until the cease-fire had been transformed into a permanent, comprehensive peace.

During a discussion after the meeting, a number of the delegation members voiced the view that they consider President Saddam Husayn realistic and politically mature. Since he is looking forward to the future, the U.S. Administration should not dwell on the past or perhaps ignore it altogether.

In the same discussion, remarks were voiced on the region's future, such as the view that Saddam Husayn is qualified to make a serious, active contribution toward the Gulf's stability.

Iraqi television reported the meetings between the delegation and President Saddam Husayn. The film clip was seen by many Gulf officials, prompting the U.S. ambassadors in the Gulf states to monitor the Gulf decisionmakers' political and financial reactions to the meetings. Reports reached the U.S. Administration in Washington that these decisionmakers had for the first time become interested in this U.S.-Iraqi meeting in Baghdad—a meeting that in their view might develop into a departure from traditional U.S.-Gulf ties.

4. In one of the reports about the U.S. delegation's visit to Iraq, there is a special emphasis on Iraq's military and political status in view of the results of the war and the political role Iraq played in the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] from the very beginning.

It is important to make clear here that the U.S. side implicitly acknowledges President Saddam Husayn's role in Egypt's return to the Arab League and realizes that this return would not have been possible without the personal efforts of President Saddam. The U.S. side contends that after Egypt's inclusion in the ACC, the United States became more reassured, especially because during the 3 years that preceeded the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran, there had been fears that Egypt might fall into the hands of the religious groups.

It is worth mentioning that over the years between the 1978 Baghdad summit resolution terminating Egypt's membership in the Arab League in response to the Camp David accords and the Casablanca resolution in 1989 reinstating Egypt into the league, U.S. administrations, whether those of former Presidents Jimmy Carter or Ronald Reagan, had been actively trying to restore Egypt's membership. Whenever an Arab ruler visited the United States, the U.S. president would ask him to restore or seek to restore his country's diplomatic relations with Egypt on the grounds that this would help Egypt restore its membership in the Arab League. This U.S. desire was also conveyed to the Arab governments through envoys to the Arab world or during the meetings of the U.S. secretary of state with his Arab counterparts in Washington or New York at the periphery of the UN General Assembly meetings. But Iraq was not involved because its relations with the United States had been broken off. For objective reasons pertinent to pan-Arab security and imposed by the circumstances of the Iraq-Iran war on the one hand and the Arab balance of power on the other, the leadership of President Saddam paved the way for Egypt's return without signifying recognition of the Camp David formula. Indeed, it might be said that Egypt, which returned to its position after the restoration of its Arab League membership, views Camp David as the shackle that can be broken only by Arab cooperation and not by Egypt alone.

But Egypt's return in the way it happened reassured the United States, whose scheme for Arab-Israeli normalization in accordance with the Camp David formula was obstructed because that formula lacked Arab military ability. The Iraqi military capabilities came to bridge the gap and consolidate the Arab nation's strategic power. We say this because the Camp David deal was made in the absence of Arab military power. When practical elements of power appeared in the field, the Camp David deal appeared as a shackle that Egypt hopes to break with the help of Arab cooperation.

5. The words addressed to President Saddam by Abboud, head of the U.S. delegation, were satisfactory. They were not Abboud's personal words because he did not meet with President Saddam in his personal capacity but as head of a 23-member delegation representing extremely important U.S. commercial, economic, and financial sectors. When no single member of the delegation objects to 'Abboud's words, it means he was speaking on behalf of all these representatives.

Among other things, Abboud told President Saddam Husayn:

—We thank Tariq 'Aziz and Nizar Hamdun in particular for their help and advice that led to strengthening trade relations between Iraq and the United States.

—We have followed how you fought over 8 years in one of the longest wars in history while your leadership remained able to continue development plans and maintain standards of living. Only a few states could have fought and provided living facilities to their people at the same time.

—Your efforts to reconstruct the cities of al-Basrah and al-Faw embody your policy of seeking peace and stability. We join the Iraqi Government in these two goals and in achieving stability in the Gulf region.

—Your efforts to return Egypt to the Arab fold are appreciated in the United States. So are your efforts to bolster relations with Jordan and Yemen, with which our country has close ties. We in Washington also follow with keen interest the steps of coordination among Iraq, Egypt, and the Palestinians to reach a just and lasting peace for the Arab-Israeli conflict. We hold the view that this can be boosted through stronger U.S.-Iraqi ties in addition to the unification of our efforts against terrorism.

—This U.S. economic group that is visiting you comprises 57 firms and banks involved in car manufacturing, oil, banking, engineering and petrochemical industries, communications, and food industries. "The U.S.-Iraq Business Forum" began with two companies—Mobil Oil and Westinghouse. But it soon grew and it now groups 57 firms aiming at expanding U.S.-Iraqi trade.

—Members of this delegation are friends of Iraq in the United States, and we hope that they will have the opportunity to market their technology, services, and skills. At the same time, as members of the U.S. private sector, we must do our best to offer competetive terms on price, quality, and experience. We are also determined to expand our economic cooperation with Iraq. In the past, there were political differences between our countries, but it is possible to overcome them by improving communications and understanding. To improve relations between our countries, we have been engaged for 1 year in the "Mesopotamia Project" with a view to displaying a large number of Iraqi antiquities and a history of arts in a number of U.S. cities. Mesopotomia is the cradle of civilization, to which the roots of the modern Western civilization extend. The firms represented here can sponsor the exhibition and create a sort of cooperation regarding it between Iraqi and U.S. professors and academicians. We hope to gain your personal support in this regard.

It remains to be pointed out that Abboud was the first U.S. banker to establish relations with the PRC. This was in 1977 when he received the green light from former President Jimmy Carter. Two years after this step, a Sino-U.S. summit was held in the White House.

Can we, assume, then, drawing on this precedent, that a summit meeting will be held in the White House some day in 1991 between President George Bush and President Saddam Husayn?

Logic, some objective matters, and the development of things point to such possibility. This summit, if held, will make Israel sit with the PLO.

Before the Gorbachev-Rafsanjani deal, such a summit, from the U.S. point of view, was questionable, but in light of the U.S. delegation's visit to Iraq, the atmosphere created by the meeting with President Saddam Husayn, and the Gorbachev-Rafsanjani deal in the Kremlin, a summit in the White House between Presidents Bush and Saddam Husayn is now in order.

From now on, monitoring the Iraqi-U.S. relations needs much patience.

We repeat that the U.S. economic, financial, and industrial delegation may transform 1990-91 into the year of Saddam Husayn in the United States. What is the meaning of the discussion in U.S. circles about Iraq being an important, reliable state for the nineties? Why does an American who has just returned from an exploratory economic mission in Iraq find someone or another at parties, social functions, working lunches, or on golf courses asking extremely interesting questions on Iraq and Saddam Husayn's character?

Such queries and questions mean that U.S. public opinion, which likes powerful statesmen, is now better disposed to reading about Saddam Husayn. Certainly, Americans would love to see him on the television screen. These Americans will discover that Saddam Husayn is as handsome as any star on the "Dynasty" television serial and is in practice like the hero of the famous "Bonanza" television serial, who is always depicted as a brave man preserving his land and abiding by the law without being a policeman.

If U.S. media report fairly on Iraq's economic status and strategic position, the U.S. citizen, having read, heard, and seen, will wonder why this man does not visit the United States and have special relations with it.

Some will even wonder: Why should Saddam Husayn not be the region's policeman, given the real vacuum for such a policemen—in the U.S. citizen's opionion—and in view of the fact that the reputation of the United States in the Middle East is no longer very high and U.S. nationals are subject to kidnapping at all times? However, these questions may reflect only the views of the questioner and not of Saddam Husayn, who clearly told the U.S. delegation what is purported to mean that he wishes the United States to consider the facts of the age and establish ties with Iraq comparable to the size of the United States and not to the extent of its ambitions, compared to Iraq's position and strength, and not to its needs to tackle the consequences of the war. To consider relations in terms of needs means exercising pressure as in the case of Egypt, something which Saddam Husayn does not want.

It is certain that the Mesopotamia Project Exhibition, which will be shown in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Houston after being shown in Washington, will constitute an advanced step on the new path of Iraqi-U.S. relations.

Following this exhibition, many U.S. caravans will visit Iraq—caravans of businessmen and tourists.

None of this would have happened had it not been for the war and the triumph.

Israeli Officials Meet Soviet Middle East Expert

Novik, Tarasov Confer in Paris

TA2507185289 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Dr Nimrod Novik, Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' political adviser, met with Gennadiy Tarasov, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's personal adviser on Middle Eastern affairs, in Paris last weekend. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren has learned that the initiative for the meeting came from the Soviets. The issues that were discussed in the meeting were the chances for promoting peace, bilateral relations, and ideas for economic cooperation.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens was advised in advance of the meeting in Paris.

Gennadiy Tarasov is the Soviet Union's contact man with the PLO. Just recently he held a long talk in Tunis with Yasir 'Arafat and other top PLO officials.

Levin on Talks With Tarasov in Moscow

TA2607062689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Telephone interview with Arye Levin, head of the Israeli consular delegation in Moscow, by Dan Shilon—live]

[Excerpts] [Shilon] Good morning, Ambassador Levin.

[Levin] Good morning.

[Shilon] You met yesterday in Moscow with Gennadiy Tarasov. Did he confirm to you the report published 2 days ago in YEDI'OT AHARONOT that he will visit Israel soon?

[Levin] You will, of course, understand that I cannot report on the contents of the meeting to the Israel Defense Forces Radio. I can only refer to what was published in YEDI'OT AHARONOT several days ago on a related subject. I believe that the newspaper tried to link two unrelated things. The issue is apparently not on the agenda at present.

[Shilon] Why?

[Levin] I do not know if it ever was on the agenda. It is not in the works and is not of particularly high priority in Soviet plans. [passage omitted]

[Shilon] When Tarasov crosses the Mediterranean and does arrive in Jerusalem, will you view it as a major step forward?

[Levin] I will not view it as a great development. I believe that when relations between us and the USSR move in the right direction—meaning official ties—when ties with our government are similar to those they have with other countries, that will be a major development.

[Shilon] Are you saying that is not on the agenda?

[Levin] As far as I understand from things I have heard here, it is so far not on the agenda, but we must wait and see. One cannot make a commitment about that.

[Shilon] When do you think it will be considered? In other words, what must happen for this to become a realistic possibility?

[Levin] I do not know. What is certain is that there were some people who analyzed the situation in the Middle East and Israel and reached conclusions that do not reflect reality.

[Shilon] At the beginning of the interview you said that you cannot refer to the contents of your talks with Tarasov yesterday, but you can certainly confirm that you did not hear a report on his talk with Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis several days ago, because you are bound by the foreign minister's ruling not to receive such reports, is that not correct?

[Levin] I did not have to do anything, because that policy is known here.

[Shilon] Thank you, Ambassador Arye Levin.

[Levin] Thank you.

Paper on U.S. Memo; Tarasov Visit Said Off

TA2607061389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Jul 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by Menahem Shalev]

[Text] The PLO has agreed to elections in the West Bank and Gaza provided that Israel accepts in advance the principal of "peace for territories," according to a U.S. memorandum that has reached Jerusalem.

It emerges that the PLO position on elections is identical to the Egyptian one comprising 10 conditions made known to Jerusalem two weeks ago.

This position appears to be acceptable to both the U.S. Administration and the Labour Party here.

The memorandum and a lengthy report on recent Soviet contacts with the PLO were discussed at a secret meeting between Vice Premier Peres's policy adviser, Nimrod Novik, and the Soviet Union's top Middle East expert, Gennadiy Tarasov.

Novik met with Tarasov in Paris last week, soon after the Soviet official's talks with the PLO leadership and before he returned to Moscow. Israel's representative in Moscow, Arye Levin, also met with Tarasov in Moscow late Monday night. Meanwhile, officials in Jerusalem said that, contrary to earlier reports, Tarasov has not formulated any plans to come to Israel in the forseeable future.

Foreign Ministry officials last night severly criticized Novik's meeting, terming it "degrading." They noted that Israel had recently rejected Tarasov's request to meet with an Israeli official in Cyprus, telling him that such a meeting could only take place in Jerusalem or Moscow. "After Novik's meeting, Tarasov certainly won't come here," one official said. Avi Pazner, Prime Minister Shamir's media adviser, confirmed last night that the premier "knew about" Novik's meeting.

In a tersely worded statement, Foreign Ministry officials said that the ministry had also been apprised in advance of Novik's impending meeting—"and the ministry expressed its opinion on the matter."

According to the American memorandum, the new element in the PLO position on elections is that it is now willing to accept Egyptian-American "accompanying teams," instead of its previous demand for international "supervision."

Initial details of Tarasov's report on his talks, as well as the American memorandum, indicate that the PLO has agreed in principle to the holding of elections in the territories and is willing to quickly appoint a negotiating team that will discuss the modalities with the government.

It is not clear whether the PLO is still insisting that the Palestinian preparatory team include members of the Palestinian diaspora, or whether it now agrees to appoint a team consisting exclusively of residents of the territories. A demand to include American Palestinian Professors Edward Said and Ibrahim Abu-Lughod was raised by the PLO in talks with the U.S. several weeks ago, and was also suggested by Egyptian President Mubarak at his meeting with Interior Minister Arye Der'i in Cairo last week.

The PLO has made specific demands concerning the modalities of the elections, including absolute freedom of speech and assembly during the election campaign; an Israeli guarantee to allow all Palestinians in the territories to participate; another guarantee to accept any and all election results; participation of East Jerusalem residents in the poll; and an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal to predetermined areas on election day.

These conditions are identical to the questions presented by Egypt to Jerusalem a fortnight ago via an American congressional delegation. They are also acceptable to the U.S. as well as to the Labour Party, as stated publicly by Defense Minister Rabin during the recent coalition crisis.

The PLO is insisting, however, that prior to its appointment of preparatory negotiating teams, Israel publicly accept Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, state that the "peace for territories" formula underpins the entire peace process, and recognize the political rights of the Palestinians.

One senior official in Jerusalem, who acknowledged the existence of the memorandum, nonetheless expressed doubt as to whether the PLO would ultimately adopt it.

Observers in Jerusalem said last night that the PLO position as expressed in the memorandum may explain the administration's strenuous objection to Labour's stated plan of abandoning the national unity government.

At the same time, however, Washington's insistence that Israel accept the peace-for-territories formula in advance, as well as the PLO role in sanctioning the elections, are bound to bring about a political crisis and a probable dismantling of the government, the observers noted.

The administration is now formulating its strategy on how to bridge the gaps between Jerusalem and Tunis, sources said. They noted that pressures have been mounting recently on Yasir 'Arafat to allow an escalation of violence in the territories in the wake of his apparent failure to move the peace process forward.

"The administration now finds itself between a rock and a hard place," one official said last night. "On the one hand, it cannot postpone its presentation of the PLO conditions to Israel, lest 'Arafat's diplomatic strategy collapse. On the other hand, the moment it does so, all hell will break loose here, and we will probably have to face new elections anyway—and thus another six month postponment of the process while Israelis go to the polls."

Government Denies Receiving U.S. Memo on PLO

TA2607103989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office have expressed skepticism about the reports that the United States conveyed to Israel a document with the latest PLO conditions for agreeing to elections in the territories. Both ministries said they had received no such document and were doubtful about whether it existed at all. [passage omitted]

Israeli-U.S. Nuclear Cooperation Turned Down

JN2207075489 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0630 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Jul (WAM) — The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD said today that Britain had rejected an Israeli offer to cooperate in the nuclear field in cooperation with the United States. The paper said London

recently informed Washington and Tel Aviv of its rejection, which arose out of its concern not to escalate the current tension in the Middle East.

The paper, citing informed British sources, said the Israeli offer is fully backed by the United States and includes forming a strategic body of nuclear energy experts in Britain, the United States, and Israel, whose duty would be to form a nucleus for joint nuclear cooperation for many years to come.

The British sources added that the Israeli offer had been proposed to more than one Western European state, but was turned down.

Travel Agency To Issue Visas to USSR

TA2607091089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] For the first time since diplomatic relations between Jerusalem and Moscow were severed, Intourist, the USSR Government tourism company, has given an Israeli firm permission to provide Israelis with tourist services and visas to the USSR.

Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that Natur received exclusive rights to issue visas to the USSR. From now on, Israelis will be able to receive visas to the USSR within 2 weeks of their application. Natur manager M. Kaspi said the agreement is a new stage in tourism ties between the two countries. He said Natur has set up a special department to deal with Israeli tourism to the USSR.

Palestinian Al-Tarifi on Meeting With Shamir

JN2507165389 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1510 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Interview with Attorney Jamil al-Tarifi by correspondent Ibrahim Shahid, carried within "With the Events" program, on 25 July; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Shahid] Jamil al-Tarifi, recently—yesterday and today—much has been said about your meetings with Prime Minister Shamir. The people are waiting for a definite answer—yes, no, how, where?

[Al-Tarifi] Yes, a meeting took place with Israeli Prime Minister Shamir few days ago at the Prime Minister's office.

[Shahid] Can you tell us how this meeting came about and how it was arranged?

[Al-Tarifi] I received a telephone call from an official of the Civil Administration summoning me to the territories coordinator the next day. When I met with him—after about 15 minutes—he informed me that I had been summoned to meet the prime minister. I went with him to the Prime Minister's Office and the meeting took place there. These were the circumstances of the meeting.

[Shahid] Then, can we begin by asking about the issues discussed—whether those raised by you or the prime minister?

[Al-Tarifi] He first asked me to discuss the situation as I see it. I began to speak about the fact that we, the Palestinian people or part of the Palestinian people, have been living under Israeli occupation since 1967, and that from the beginning of the occupation there were many indications that our people rejected the Israeli occupation. As I told him, I believe that we, like other peoples throughout the world, have the right to choose our representatives and that our people chose—freely and voluntarily—the PLO as their sole legitimate representative.

Whether some people like this or not, it is a fact and one of the facts of the conflict in the region. I also told him that there are certain convictions. Our people's conviction is that no one in the world can be allowed to confiscate our rights. Furthermore, I told him that the conflict between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples can only solved peacefully, not by military means.

Regarding the Israeli peace plan, I told him that it was an Israeli peace plan which aims to reconcile the two major parties in Israel and that we are not bound by it. I also told him that it will remain an Israeli peace plan until a peace agreement is signed by the two sides. In order to sign a peace agreement between the two sides, they must both believe in it.

I told him that it was clear to us that the issue being presented to the world is whether or not there should be elections. This is not the case. We as a Palestinian people already practice democracy in our lives—whether political or daily democracy. Therefore, we support democracy and we support elections on the condition that we know what will come after them. Are elections an end in themselves, or are they the means to a greater end—that is, an overall solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict?

[Text] [Shahid] What did the prime minister tell Jamil al-Tarifi during that meeting?

[Al-Tarifi] He said that the Israeli peace plan offers the Palestinian people the right to some kind of autonomy, which resembles, to some extent, independence with the exception of foreign and security [issues]. He said we should accept that plan because it is a fact that there is no confidence between the two peoples, and this phase is essential to build confidence between them. Regarding the final phase, he said that there is no need to discuss details on what will this phase be, but it should be left to the negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. He added that if difficulties emerge, we must

negotiate and negotiate until we reach an agreement. He said that on some occasions, the PLO has supported Palestinians meeting with Israeli leaders, while at other times it has objected to the idea of these meetings. Not long ago, a PLO figure said that you met with Shamir and supported this. Were there really any contacts, or have you obtained a green light for such a meeting?

[Al-Tarifi] I have no contacts and I have not obtained a green light. However, as I said few minutes ago, there is a fact in the occupied territory—nothing takes place in the occupied territories without the PLO's approval or knowledge.

[Shahid] Now, regarding the persons who were also said to have met with Shamir—such as 'Izz-al-Din al-'Aryan, Mahmud Abu-al-Zuluf, and others. Did they join you in the same the meeting, or do you know about their meetings?

[Al-Tarifi] I was alone in the meeting. I learned the names of the other figures from the newspapers. I leave it to those who held meetings to announce whether the meetings took place or not.

Further Interview on Meeting

TA2507171089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Studio talk between Anchorman Me'ir Einstein and Arye Gus, correspondent in the territories, and political correspondent Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Let us begin with the issue of the prime minister's meetings with Palestinian personalities. We finally have the first official confirmation that the prime minister is indeed holding meetings with personalities from the territories: Attorney Jamil al-Tarifi held a news conference at his home in al-Birah today, in which he admitted to having met with the prime minister in his office in Jerusalem approximately 2 weeks ago. Here is a report by Ibrahim Shahid and Arye Gus:

[Gus] The prime minister and I indeed met approximately 10 days ago, confirmed Attorney Jamil al-Tarifi. Al-Tarifi was the deputy mayor of Al-Birah, serving on the council that was disbanded by the Civil Administration, and is a known PLO supporter. In his news conference he divulged details of his conversation with the prime minister: Mr Shamir asked me to report on the situation in the territories. I told him that since 1967 we have expressed opposition to the occupation. We are a nation like any other, explained al-Tarifi to the prime minister, and we have the right to elect our representatives. We chose the PLO, whether others like it or not.

[Recorded al-Tarifi remarks in Arabic followed by Gus' translation] Al-Tarifi said he emphasized the inhabitants' support for the PLO, and the need to include that organization in any future settlement. Without the PLO, he said, there will be no settlement.

He heard about the peace plan from the prime minister, and reacted to it by saying that it is an Israeli plan which, although acceptable to the two major Israeli political parties, is nevertheless not binding on the Palestinians.

[Recorded al-Tarifi remarks in Arabic followed by Gus' translation] The plan will remain an Israeli peace plan for as long as no agreement is signed between the two sides. In order for an agreement to be signed, it must be accepted by both parties. Al-Tarifi reported that the prime minister explained his plan: It will grant the Palestinians a semblance of autonomy, but will not give them any authority over foreign affairs or defense matters. The Palestinians must accept the plan, said the prime minister, because this phase is imperative to create mutual trust between the two nations. Regarding the next phases, the prime minister said that there is no need to go into detail. This, however, is precisely what the Palestinians want to know, as al-Tarifi stated: Is the election plan an end in itself, or a stage toward a comprehensive solution?

Did al-Tarifi receive a green light from the PLO? No, I did not, he said, nor do I have any links with it. Nevertheless, everyone knows that without the PLO nothing could be achieved.

[Einstein] These were Attorney al-Tarifi's remarks at the news conference he held approximately 2 hours ago at his home in al-Birah.

Good evening, political correspondent Arye Golan.

[Golan] Good evening.

[Einstein] How did the Prime Minister's Office react to what amounts to the first official confirmation that personalities from the territories have indeed met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir?

[Golan] First of all, the Prime Minister's Office this evening happily highlighted Attorney al-Tarifi's statement that he has no ties with the PLO, and that the organization had not okayed his meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. It was stated in the Prime Minister's Office that Mr Shamir plans to continue meetings with Arab personalities from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Most of the meetings are organized by Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of government activities in the territories. Interestingly enough, however, all the people from the Israeli side who are involved in the talks with the Palestinians have kept quiet about them. This is true for the prime minister; Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, who also holds such meetings; and for Shmu'el Goren himself.

Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, told us this evening that the prime minister reserves the prerogative of declining information on the identity of those with whom he meets, or of revealing the content of what his Palestinian interlocutors told him. In all honesty,

members of the Prime Minister's Office have not unequivocally denied the possibility that some of Shamir's partners in those meetings—although not Attorney al-Tarifi—nonetheless briefed the PLO in Tunis either before the meetings or after them, if only as a precautionary measure against the chance that these meetings might involve them in a dispute with PLO members in the territories.

At any rate, it transpires from what al-Tarifi reported this evening in his news conference about the content of his talk, that regarding the elections he definitely directed Mr Shamir to the PLO, saying that without it no arrangement would be possible. The Prime Minister's Office refused to say this evening whether Mr Shamir was able to hear differing opinions from the other Palestinians whom he met. Perhaps he will hear different views with the Palestinians he plans to meet in the future. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 25 July reports that al-Tarifi refused to answer a question on other Palestinians who had met with the prime minister]

[Einstein] I understand from the Prime Minister's Office's reaction also, that despite the publicity given by Attorney al-Tarifi to his meeting with the prime minister, Mr Shamir intends to continue to hold meetings with Palestinian personalities.

[Golan] Certainly.

Shamir Offers Palestinian State in Jordan

TA2607100989 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Jul 89 p 1

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari and Moti Bassok]

[Excerpt] Palestinian sources in the territories, who are linked to Fatah supporters in the Unified National Command of the Uprising, said yesterday that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has raised the possibility of setting up a Palestinian state in Jordan. According to this proposal, the Palestinians in the territories would then agree to settle for autonomy.

The Prime Minister's Office asserted that in compliance with the Palestinians' request, no details about the contents of the talks or the identity of the participants will be revealed. Therefore, everything that has been published in the media over the past few days is mere speculation.

Our correspondent points out that Shamir has surprisingly not invited any pro-Jordanian notables for talks, even though full autonomy for the territories and the recognition of Palestinian sovereignty east of the Jordan River feature among the basic principles in the 'Amirav-al-Husayni agreement of 2 years ago. [passage omitted]

Indirect Talks With PLO Said Under Way

TA2607090889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] Deputy Finance Minister Yosi Beilin has said once again, this time in the Knesset, that there are indirect negotiations with the PLO aimed at getting a green light for elections in the territories.

Responding to Knesset members' queries, Beilin said a short time ago that contacts with the PLO are being conducted under the auspices of the United States, Romania, Egypt, as well as other countries.

[Begin Beilin recording] There are no direct negotiations with the PLO; there have been indirect negotiations with the PLO since the government's decision on elections in the territories, and anybody who is well informed knows about it. One can either say that it is very good or very bad, but the fact that there are negotiations with the PLO on this issue is obvious. They have one aim: to get a green light from the PLO for elections in the territories. [end recording]

Deputy Finance Minister Beilin cynically pointed out that he sees no reason to dismiss the prime minister because of his meeting with Jamil al-Tarifi, who is identified with the PLO.

PLO To Form Delegation, Postpone Elections

TA2607085889 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Jul 89 pp A1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Excerpt] PLO leaders in Tunis, in coordination with leading activists in the territories and Egypt, have begun to form a Palestinian delegation that will start negotiations with Israel on the implementation of self-rule in the territories. A report on this move was also transmitted to the United States, which is to raise these proposals in meetings that John Kelly, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, will have in Israel next week. According to the report, PLO leaders plan to get a postponement of the elections and to begin transferring autonomy powers to existing national bodies in the territories.

At the same time, Fatah supporters in East Jerusalem are exerting efforts to set up a political leadership that will both supervise and act as an advisory body for meetings between public figures from the territories and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Moshe Arens, and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

These efforts are encountering difficulties at this stage due to the differences of opinion among various Fatah supporters. The political leadership is expected to include Faysal al-Husayni, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, Dr Sari Nusaybah, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Ghassan al-Shak'ah, and Dr Mamduh al-'Iqar.

Fatah supporters plan to add Zuhayra Kamal as the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine representative, Riyad Malki as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] representative, and Ghassan al-Khatib, who is under administrative detention, as the Communist Party's delegate.

In view of Israel's opposition to including the American professors Edward Said and Ibrahim Abu-Lughod, members of the Palestine National Council, in the talks, the PLO is proposing bringing back to the territories several Palestinian personalities deported by the Israeli defense authorities because of their political activities, but who did not take part in terrorist activity, such as former AL-SHA'B editor Akram Haniyah.

Senior Israeli officials do not totally rule out such a possibility, because Haniyah has not been convicted of participation in terrorist acts and, despite his closeness to 'Arafat, is not a member of the PLO's elected bodies.

The setting up of such a mechanism by the Palestinians is aimed at preventing bloodshed over the start of a dialogue with Israel to advance Shamir's peace initiative. In the territories there is a fear that without agreement by all sides, the conflict between supporters of the various PLO branches might worsen. These efforts are also linked to the reconciliatory talks held yesterday between Yasir 'Arafat and George Habash in an effort to coordinate positions before negotiations start.

Sa'id Kan'an of Nabulus yesterday said that even if invited to meet with Shamir, he will not be able to go because PFLP threats have worsened in Nabulus in the last few days. Jamil al-Tarifi, who conferred with the prime minister last week, stressed that his impression from the meeting was positive. He said that the prime minister told him that peace must be made between enemies and not between friends and that the conflict between the two nations must be resolved through peaceful means.

Sources in the territories pointed out that in the end there will no choice but to overcome the dispute on the setting up of a political leadership and that the differences of opinion that have arisen over the composition derive from personal and not ideological considerations. The same sources believe that if the leading Fatah supporters in the territories do not reach an agreement among themselves, 'Arafat will decide on the composition of the political leadership in order to restore harmony. [passage omitted]

Opposition Official's Contact With PLO Criticized

TA2507193789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Shinuy Secretary General Moshe 'Amirav participated in a seminar yesterday in which Labib al-Tarazi, the PLO's representative to the United Nations, was also present. This transpires from a report that arrived in Jerusalem from Santiago, the capital of Chile. The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem says that 'Amirav's activity has had a detrimental effect on the political efforts, and on Israel's propaganda campaign in Chile.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that he was told by the Foreign Ministry that the latest report contradicts Shinuy Chairman Amnon Rubinstein's affirmation that 'Amirav did not participate in seminars attended by PLO representatives.

'Arafat, Khalaf Election Statements Viewed

JN2507145389 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1340 GMT 25 Jul 89

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, has announced that the PLO is willing to accept the election plan in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on condition that it is agreed beforehand that the aim of the elections is to negotiate with the PLO within the international conference to define the final situation in the region and to establish an independent Palestinian state.

Abu-Iyad, known as the number-two man in 'Arafat's organization, said this to the Baghdad newspaper AL-THAWRAH at the end of last week. As for his president, Yasir 'Arafat, he told the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM earlier last week that he accepts the Israeli prime minister's plan to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on condition that the U.S. President George Bush reciprocate by giving written U.S. guarantees and pledges to the PLO.

It is obvious that 'Arafat and his aides have recently resorted to playing the game of pre-conditions after failing to persuade the world that the Likud Central Committee's resolutions had destroyed the election plan.

The pre-conditions game which has been resumed by 'Arafat and his aides shows itself in their tune of "We accept the election plan—but only on this or that condition." Then, they discard this precondition and add that other precondition to agree on the proposed election plan within the framework of the Israeli peace initiative.

Of course, 'Arafat and his aides—individually or all together—are free to play the previously-mentioned game of preconditions and carry on other such hobbies of theirs and their well-known verbal clownings. As for the Israeli Government, its principles on 'Arafat and his organization are firm and well-known. There is no need to repeat them in great detail.

'Arafat and his aides are free to practice their clowning and their favorite hobbies; but the core of the issue is not a game and cannot tolerate any more 'Arafatist clownings. The issue is that of a people and their human sufferings. It is a human tragedy for both the Israeli and the Arab peoples, and all the nations in our region.

The major question that keeps coming up is whether the Palestinians will take the opportunity presented by the election plan or let it slip by. If they let it pass them by, then it can be added to the already long list of golden opportunities which they have missed in the past 4 decades—opportunities which were proposed to put an end to their suffering and to find an honorable and realistic solution to their problem.

Civil Administration Widens Activities in W. Bank

TA2507193389 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Excerpt] The Civil Administration has resumed its activity in Judaea and Samaria towns, and extended it to include villages in which it was never before present. The intention is to bring life back to normal. Our military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky reports:

[Begin recording] [Shlonsky] After 18 months of intifadah [uprising], the Civil Administration is expanding its hold over the villages. A new Civil Administration office opened this morning in the center of Ya'bad in Samaria. This time the message is not only that services are going to be rendered, but also a warning to the inhabitants following repeated disturbances.

[Brigadier General Shay Erez, the head of the Civil Administration] We decided to take a foothold in these places in order to manifest our presence. We will remain there until it becomes clear to the locals that we will go anywhere we wish, if we so desire.

[Shlonsky] In the town of Salfit, too, the Civil Administration services reopened approximately 2 weeks ago. Here as well, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is keeping close tabs on what is happening. The Civil Administration and police station here was forced to shut down in the heat of the intifadah. Now, however, it is back.

Salfit is called red, since this village has been subjected to communist influence. It was among the few places that proclaimed sovereignty, and has conducted its own affairs in a commendable fashion. The settlement of Ari'el, incidentally, is just beyond the hill. Salfit is a relatively wealthy village, boasting broad and clean streets. On the walls of the buildings the remains of graffiti are still noticeable. Quiet was achieved here only after several large-scale operations, and the detention of dozens of villagers who had been on the wanted list.

According to the Civil Administration's decision, and with the consent of the Unified National Command of the Uprising, classes resumed here as well. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 25 July adds: "In the next few days the IDF will release students from Judaea and Samaria schools who have been detained by the security forces. The above was stated by Major General 'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, during a tour of Samaria."]

Woman Dies of Heart Attack During IDF Search

TA2507174889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] A 65-year-old Gaza woman died of a heart attack last night in the course of a search for stone throwers in town. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit entered the home of Fatima Badwan and found leaflets and hostile material. The woman then lost consciousness. A physician was summoned and tried to revive her, but in the end it was determined that she had died of natural causes, apparently of a coronary infarction.

A 20-year-old youth who was seriously injured yesterday during disturbances in the al-Shabura neighborhood in Rafah died of his injuries this morning at Tel Hashomer hospital. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of his death.

Our correspondent adds that disturbances were also recorded in the al-Shabura refugee camp, and that two residents of the camp were injured by IDF gunfire. This afternoon the Army imposed a curfew on the camp.

4 Soldiers Jailed for Robbing Arabs

TA2607050189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] The military court of the Southern Command sentenced four soldiers serving in the Gaza Strip to long prison sentences after they were convicted of robbing and abusing Arabs living in the Strip last year.

The judges also criticized the soldiers and determined that their actions have harmed the image of the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] more than the behavior of the Palestinians. The judges also said that the case is one of the most serious ever presented to a military court. In its decision the judges said: We never knew in the past acts of exploitation as shocking and ugly.

The court sentenced Corporal Shim'on Ben-Houtam, who was convicted of planning the robberies and participated in eight of them, to 4 and ½ years in prison. Victor Bar-El was sentenced to 3 years, Ilan Salem to 6 months, and Shalom Laviyashvili to 18 months in jail.

24 Jul Unrest in Territories Detailed

TA2507111789 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 Jul 89 p 2

[Report by Uri'el Ben-'Ami, Ayelet Mazor, and ITIM]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Three residents were wounded in yesterday's clashes with soldiers in the territories. In the Tulkarm refugee camp, Ahmad al-Hayil (14) was shot in the spine. He was transferred to a Ramallah hospital in critical condition.

Two residents of the village of al-Tall near Tulkarm and a resident of Bethlehem were slightly wounded. [passage omitted]

Arab sources reported that eight Gaza Strip residents were wounded there yesterday. Fawzi Ahmad (35) from the al-Mughazi neighborhood in Gaza was severely beaten all over his body and was hospitalized at a local medical facility in moderately serious condition.

Gaza Strip physicians yesterday staged a 2-hour strike in solidarity with a physician who was detained last weekend under administrative orders.

An Israeli Subaru parked near the vegetable market in Qalqilyah was set on fire by masked men early yesterday morning. The car was gutted. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] personnel arrived at the scene and closed off the area. Local residents told ITIM that the IDF detained dozens for interrogation. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 25 July in a page 1 report by Mikha'el Rotem adds: "Army and Border Police were rushed last night to the Lakhish area, after at least one man was shot in a clash between Arab shepherds and members of Moshav Amazya, near Qiryat Gat. The Jewish farmers used guns and the Arabs used knives."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 25 July in a page A6 unattributed report adds: "The Gaza military court has placed Dr Mahmud Zahir, a lecturer at the Islamic University and member of the local medical association, under administrative detention. The court also sentenced 24-year-old Hisham al-Majdalawi to 7 and ½ years imprisonment, including a 3-year suspended sentence, for membership in a strike committee."

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 25 July in a page 1 report by Avi Bnayahu and Ayelet Mazor notes that "the Southern Command military court yesterday passed deterrent sentences on four standing Army soldiers convicted of looting and theft in the Gaza Strip. Shim'on Ben-Huta was sentenced to 4 and ½ years in prison, Victor Bar-El to 3 and ½ years, Ayalon Salem to 2 and ½ years, and Shalom Leviashvili to 1 and ½ years." The report adds that the soldiers were apprehended after "Gaza shopowners complained to the Civil Administration that a group of soldiers habitually extorted money from them."]

3 Nabulus PFLP 'Terrorists' Wounded in Operation

TA2507143289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Yesterday the security forces apprehended three terrorists in Nabulus who planned to murder a woman suspected of assisting the authorities. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the three terrorists were apprehended in the course of operations initiated by the security forces in town. One of the terrorists was armed with a pistol, which he fired in the course of the confrontation. The three terrorists were wounded by the security forces' gunfire. It turns out that they were on the wanted list and belonged to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

CBJ To Stop Speculations Against Dinar

JN2607075289 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
26 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] Amman—It has been learned from informed economic sources that large-scale speculations have recently taken place against the Jordanian dinar on the black market within the framework of suspect attempts to affect the price of Jordanian currency against the U.S. dollar.

The sources said that some sides had leaked huge amounts of dinars into Jordan from abroad to buy hard currency, especially the U.S. dollar.

A Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] official said that the CBJ will intervene decisively to stop these speculations in the black market, out of its and the competent authorities' eagerness to stabilize the price of the Jordanian dinar and meet the citizens' hard currency requirements.

AL-RA'Y has also learned from informed sources that the competent authorities will take the most severe measures against those who are tampering with the exchange rate of the dinar and who are buying and selling hard currency on the black market, regardless whether they are individuals or financial institutions.

The informed sources also explained to AL-RA'Y that attempts to transfer Jordanian currency to Jordan from abroad to reduce the dinar's price is part of the suspect Zionist campaigns and political pressures to which Jordan is being exposed as a result of its firm pan-Arab and national positions toward the causes of the homeland and the Arab nation, especially the Palestine question.

Columnist Urges West Bankers To Support Dinar

JN2507115489 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
25 Jul 89 p 22

["Every Day Column" by Tariq Masarwah: "The Jordanian Dinar Here and There!"]

[Text] Estimates that Jordanian currency in the occupied territory amounts to 200 million dinars may be true. And whether it is more than this figure or less will be subject to open speculation as much as the U.S. dollar, the pound Sterling, or the Deutsche mark here are subject to covert speculation. The target in both cases is the same; namely, the Jordanian dinar.

Jordanian currency in the occupied territory has always been subject to speculation. When the dinar was strong against the falling shekel, the Israeli monetary authorities used to carry it to Beirut to exchange it for the dollar. But now the Jordanian currency travels from the occupied territory to Cyprus and from there to the Arabian Gulf states and eventually returns with the expatriates to the homeland as a cheap currency instead of the hard currency which they used to transfer home. The question now is: What can we do with the Jordanian currency in the occupied territory?

According to monetary calculations, the existence of the dinar in the hands of the Palestinian Arabs is a national asset, and its protection is a protection of national assets which must not be relinquished. The intifadah [uprising] forces have punished by death a number of moneychangers who speculated over the dinar. The weakening of the dinar is a weakening of the national and economic life of the steadfastness in the face of Israeli repression.

The stupid people who spread rumors about changing the Jordanian currency—rumors which were picked up and exaggerated by the Zionist information organs—do not realize that an artificial drop in the rate of the dinar will economically destroy those who hide dinars in their homes because the dinar is outside the Israeli banking system. Palestinians do not deal with Israeli banks. The spreading of these rumors represents a marketing of the Israeli shekel which cannot constitute the Palestinians' savings. This stupidity, which sometimes reaches the point of treason, provokes indignation because the negative spirit that is covered with nationalism has become a kind of blindness. The Jerusalem newspaper AL-SHA'B which believes that the defamation of all that is Jordanian can realize other things, harms the Jordanian dinar, and eventually undermines the savings of every Palestinian in the occupied territory which have been in Jordanian dinars for 20 years.

We cannot do much in terms of government measures to protect the dinar in the occupied territory because protecting the dinar here and there is a national responsibility to be practised by the citizen to the best of his ability. The Jordanian dinar is legal tender and an instrument of national economy. What is important is to raise the value of the dinar above that of a commodity.

Paper Views Elections, Future Deputies

JN2607073189 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic
15 Jul 89 p 4

[Unattributed article entitled: "Names of Candidates and Semicandidates: Amman—Election Game Map"]

[Excerpts] The wheels of the election process in Jordan began turning when the government approved the election amendments law. Elections are scheduled for next November after a hiatus of 22 years necessitated by the occupation of the West Bank.

Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister, held a news conference on 5 July in which he fixed the timetable for the election process and clarified certain ambiguities in this matter pertaining to the election stages. [passage omitted]

The first stage in the election process is registering the names of the voters. This stage will begin immediately following 'Id al-Adha holiday [17 July]. A number of incumbent ministers such as Deputy Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri, Youth Minister 'Awad Khulayfat, and Education Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur, will tender their resignations next month to run for election because the Constitution prohibits incumbent ministers and government employees from running for elections.

There are also a number of senior officials who are expected to resign their posts and join the election festival, which the Jordanian people have been awaiting for 2 decades, and which is now necesary, given the legal and administrative disengagement with the West Bank last year.

Most of those who are expected to run for the elections are young and nontraditional figures who are capable of asking questions, carrying out opposition, and forming the parties that are expected to be established at the end of the elections and the formulation of the national action charter, which King Husayn has repeatedly called for.

Although there will be many new names in the election process, this will not prevent the appearance of old and veteran figures who insist on competing for a parliamentary seat, if only in an attempt to prove that they still exist.

Although the names of those running for Parliament will be known 25 days before the elections, the names of some candidates are now being mentioned within the framework of the elections festival.

The following are expected to run in Amman: Mahmud al-Kayid, journalist; Eng Layth Shubaylat, president of the Engineers Association; Dr 'Ali al-Hawamidah, from the Islamic trend; Eng 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, president of the Contrators Association; Lawyer Faris al-Nabulsi; Dr Jamal al-Sha'ir, Christian; Muhammad Nazzal al-'Armuti, a veteran deputy.

In the Irbid Governorate in northern Jordan the following are expected to run: Dr Hasan Khurays, a friend of Yasir 'Arafat; Eng Salih Irshaydat and Dr Ahmad al-Kawfahi, from the Islamic Trend; Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq Tubayshat, mayor of Irbid; Muhammad al-Khatib, former information minister; Ahmad 'Ubaydat, former prime minister; Husayn Mujalli, former president of the Lawyers Association; 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, mayor of Amman; and Ahmad al-'Utum, former director of the Press and Publications Department.

In the Ma'an Governorate in southern Jordan the following are expected to run: Sulayman 'Arar, former deputy prime minister, and 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti.

In the Al-Zarqa' Governorate the following are expected to run: Dr Mamduh al-'Abbadi, president of the Doctors Association; Salamah al-Ghuwayri, mayor of Zarqa; and Shaykh 'Abd-al-Baqi Jammu and Shams-al-Din Tash representing the Circassians.

In the al-Karak Governorate, the following are expected to run: Dr Riad al-Nawayisah, former deputy; 'Ali Suhaymat, former minister; and Dr 'Isa al-Qusus, a Christian.

As for al-Balqa' Governorate, the following are expected to run: Dr 'Abdallah al-Nusur, the present education minister; 'Amin Zayd al-Kilani, from the Islamic Trend; and Dr Fawzi Dawud Tu'aymah, a former Christian deputy.

The following are expected to run on behalf of the Bedouin in the north: Dr Trad al-Qadi, one of the most prominent ministers of Zayd al-Rifa'i. On behalf of the Bedouin in the central part of Jordan, there will be 'Akif al-Fayiz, former House of Representatives speaker; and Shaykh Nayif al-Khurayshah. Representing the Bedouin of the south, there will be retired Lieutenant General Mashhur Hadithah, former chief of staff; and Shaykh Khalaf Abu-Nuwayyir.

If these names are now being mentioned at this early stage of the elections process, there will undoubtedly be other who will come forth or be added. No fewer than 250 candidates are expected to compete for the 80 seats in Parliament. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Appoints Three New Governors

JN2407065889 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Jul 89 p 3

[Excerpt] Amman (Petra, J.T.)—Three new governors have been appointed by the Cabinet to take up posts at the Ministry of Interior before measures can be taken for their appointment in the provinces.

A statement issued Saturday evening said that Jawdat al-Subul, Salamah Hammad and Khalaf Maharmah are all to take up their posts at the ministry immediately.

Al-Subul, a lawyer by profession, has served in a number of key posts at the Interior Ministry, the Civil Aviation authority and other government departments.

Hammad, another senior official at the Ministry of Interior with a law degree, has also served in a number of positions including the post of district governor in Al-'Aqabah.

Maharmah for his part, is a retired Army officer with high military academy degrees who, at one time, had served as commander of the Royal Guards Corps. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Confers With Egyptian State Minister

JN2507124889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Amman—His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chairman of the Council of Ministers, received Maurice Makramallah, Egyptian minister of state for international cooperation, in his office this morning. Ziyad 'Innab, minister of industry and trade, attended the meeting. During the meeting, Bin-Shakir and Makramallah reviewed the various aspects of cooperation between Jordan and Egypt, especially the economic and investment areas, and the measures taken by the Jordanian-Egyptian holding company for investment and development to prepare for a meeting of the higher Egyptian-Jordanian joint committee scheduled to be held in Amman soon.

Joint Holding Company Meets

JN2507194389 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The general assembly of the Jordanian-Egyptian Holding Company held its first meeting for this year. Industry and Trade Minister Mr 'Innab and Egyptian Minister of International Cooperation Mr Makramallah co-chaired the meeting.

During the meeting, Mr 'Innab stressed the importance of holding companies and joint Arab ventures in achieving economic integration among Arab countries with the final goal of attaining Arab food security.

The general assembly discussed the steps taken so far to set up a company producing red meat and fodder in Egypt. It also urged the Egyptian minister of agriculture to complete studies on the fishing project which will be set up in al-'Aqabah.

Makramallah Leaves 25 Jul

JN2607065089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Excerpts] The general assembly of the Jordanian-Egyptian Holding Company for Investment and Development held its first meeting this year under Ziyad 'Innab, minister of industry and trade. Maurice Makramallah, Egyptian minister of state for international cooperation, attended the meeting. [passage omitted]

Dr Maurice Makramallah left Amman this evening after a 2-day visit to Jordan.

Editorial Criticizes U.S. Praise for Israel

JN2607113589 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Jul 89 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Undue Praise"]

[Text] Since both wings of the Israeli Government developed their joint maneuver concerning the proposed elections in the occupied Arab territories, the United States has continued its warm and repeated welcome of what official U.S. spokesmen call Israel's reassertion of its commitment to the peace plan and renewal of the pledge to abide by the Israeli Government's former statements on these elections.

This exaggerated U.S. welcome has not surprised observers of U.S. Israeli relations because they realize the degree of Israeli influence on U.S. circles, especially since the tough conditions stipulated by Likud on that plan have undermined the political grounds on which the United States stands vis-a-vis the Middle East crisis.

Hence, it is possible to understand the purpose of all this U.S. welcome and approbation of the Shamir government's reiteration of its adherence to the plan on which Washington bases its new Mideast policy. The United States views Shamir's plan as an acceptable alternative to the idea of the international peace conference—an idea which has won the unanimous approval of all world countries. This explains the acute awkwardness felt by the Americans as a result of the rigid conditions which Likud attached to the proposed election plan.

We might have joined the United States in its optimism toward Israel's elections plan had we not known beforehand Shamir's real intentions of misleading world public opinion, especially U.S. public opinion, into believing that Israel has a peace plan and a political position that can be dealt with. All this is intended to gain time and develop further repressive policies to abort the brave intifadah [uprising] of the Palestinian people.

In view of all this, we do not wish to see the United States singing the praises of a vague and deceptive Israeli plan and paying tribute to Israel's alleged peaceful stands and commitments. We hoped that the U.S. Administration would develop its declared stand on the Middle East question and the Palestinian people's rights in order to achieve peace in the Middle East in line with the UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and in a spirit of justice, law, and international consensus.

'Awn Interviewed on Social Problems, Syrian Role

Part One

PM2407133889 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Jul 89 p 2

[Part one of interview with General Michel 'Awn, head of the Lebanese military government, by Michel Abu-Judah; place, date not given]

[Text] [Abu-Judah] How can we turn Lebanese citizens from military into civilian subjects, what is their future, and what issue was it that you said I raised?

['Awn] How did you raise it, Mr Michel?

[Abu-Judah] We raised the issue of Raymon Iddih and General 'Awn.

['Awn] You cannot extricate anyone from any situation before Lebanon is free and sovereign. After 15 years Lebanon now refuses to negotiate its sovereignty and independence, it demands negotiations on ending the occupation, and that is all. No negotiations in that regard: How can I negotiate my own position with the Syrians? All the Syrians want is for the problem to remain unresolved. This is why they are negotiating and saying: "You must remove Michel 'Awn. Remove so-and-so and the symbols of sovereignty, independence, and everything else. Do not say you exist, and we will resolve the problem." This is like someone who gives a patient an injection, buries him, and then says: I have now cured him; he is no longer in pain. So you no longer hear his voice. This is what the Syrians want now.

I assume they are saying now that General 'Awn's departure would lead to a solution to the crisis. Fine, let us assume that General 'Awn has gone: What is the next step? Since they intend to resolve it, let them tell us what the next step will be. In the past they said: If so-and-so goes, it will be resolved. If you do so-and-so, it will be resolved. Fine, assume we have done all that: What will be the next step after General 'Awn? Is there any step? No. They want to eliminate the main obstacle in order to swallow up Lebanon. But that obstacle will not be removed.

[Abu-Judah] What did the British ambassador say during his meeting with you? Did he tell you anything about the industrial states' meeting?

['Awn] No. This information came to us officially, in written form. (He produced a letter discussing Chile's position.) Stances are conveyed to us officially, in written form. We were supposed to be briefed on it by the French ambassador, because the meeting was held in France. The British ambassador is heading for a certain country where a meeting with Middle East ambassadors will be held.

[Abu-Judah] What is the situation regarding the military forces under General 'Awn and military steadfastness?

['Awn] There is no problem regarding our military steadfastness. It is the people that cause me concern. I would very much like to see the people achieving what they want. Our race is a long marathon. As you well know, runners tire in the final kilometer of a marathon. People have been running for 15 years. This, particularly in recent months, especially since the Lebanese people are very sensitive: They have been worried about very simple things. I have tried to reassure them, and they have been reassured, but they remain a little frightened. Surely they—and especially the generation with whom I am dealing now—will continue to feel that fear. This, because they [not further identified] always lie to them, and even when they tell them the truth, they remain suspicious. They are a very kind people who can grant you full support. They say: We hope it is true, but it is so. They fear deceit and anyone who is not accustomed to telling the truth.

The problem concerns the people. A while ago a number of telephone calls were received from people in the western area [of Beirut]. One called his sister and told her to leave the eastern area. Another called his cousins and said: The area will be invaded tonight—not even in 48 hours. So they caused confusion and instability. Later they created the "banking problem" for them: "Banks will collapse... banks will disappear." The aim was to make them worry about their resources. Then they said: The "Lebanese Forces" will confront the Army. If any of them suffer an accident, they tend to fabricate reports about it and say: The Forces will confront the Army and the Army will confront the Forces; there is a problem. Thus, they create an internal atmosphere of instability. Some say: The people must be united and agreed. If you are agreed, conditions will be easier. But when they are agreed, they tell them: You must disagree with one another, because you are following so-and-so, who is "not good," which is exactly what they are doing now. Now they are working to cause a dispute, especially following the people's unity under the banner of liberation. Their objective is for the conspiracy to continue.

In Lebanon there are those who live without using their critical faculties and conscience in distinguishing right from wrong. Unfortunately our contemporary social history probably encourages that. Many peoples are the same; but there must be awareness.

[Abu-Judah] Is it perhaps because no one has told them the truth for the past 15 years?

['Awn] For the past 150 or 200 years. The historic truth must be recorded and we must conduct a process of inquiry so that people can gradually learn and so as to create a conscientious and mature people. I mentioned this at my meeting with the university professors. The people always try to be mature, but we hit them and suppress them. They [not further identified] regard them

merely as a group to be exploited. In a small and weak state such as ours, they do not allow the people to become mature and coherent, because if they do become so, they will be difficult to exploit. They impose presidents and regimes on the minor countries so as to protect the major countries' interests. Today we have two revolutions. On the anniversary of the French Revolution we say that the French rose up against certain classes within their society. Now we are involved in an internal revolution against certain classes and in an external revolution against another class: The international class struggle imposes certain solutions on us. A certain ambassador (the U.S. ambassaor) said yesterday that he sensed that everyone is tending toward an escalation. What tendency toward an escalation did he sense in me?

[Abu-Judah] Why do you not reply to him?

['Awn] What should I tell him? Should I reply to him all the time? What tendency? Will I allow ships to sink and people to die of starvation and cut fuel supplies? Should I not reply to the shelling of inhabited villages? If I do that, I would then have a tendency toward escalation. Does it mean that I should forfeit the legitimate right to self-defense? Do they want me not to respond to provocations and the killing of people? People were killed over a period of 100 days, and I did not reply. So what do you want now? Do you want me to allow people to kill me? They tell you: He does not accept advice. If the advice is to hand over your country, would you accept it? This is the international class struggle which we too are fighting. The international situation has become intermingled, so rules and charters have been drawn up for it. But the next minute they forget the charters, cause massacres throughout the world, attack these charters, and move in the opposite direction. So why do they laugh at us? Do we draw up charters to cover the errors of the great or to protect the small from the great? The charters and laws were drawn up to protect the small, not the great.

Part Two

PM2507140189 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jul 89 p 2

[Part two of interview with General Michel 'Awn, head of the Lebanese military government, by Michel Abu-Jawdah; place, date not given]

[Text] [Abu-Jawdah] How would you describe your relationship with the "Lebanese Forces"?

['Awn] Like other forces, the "Lebanese Forces" emerged as a result of the events. They exist now and are in harmony with the government's policy, in terms of the aims which we are defending—that is, liberating Lebanon and restoring Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. And there is no problem between us. Of course, they acknowledge that they are part of Lebanon, but not all of Lebanon. And we acknowledge that they are part of Lebanon and have the right to participate in a solution. They represent an important viewpoint, and they will be present at the negotiating table. We did not come to eliminate any Lebanese. We came to unite the Lebanese in order to arrive at a certain solution. I am saying this as a responsible Lebanese. Within that framework, the objectives which the government is defending are Lebanese objectives. There must be no Lebanese contradiction over the question of liberating Lebanon. There must be no damage from the Amal Movement, the Progressive Socialist Party, or any of the forces working for Lebanon's independence and liberation from occupations, especially since they have known both brother and enemy. Everyone went through a particular experience of which he must "rid" himself. We Lebanese must sit around a table in order to resolve our problems. And I am totally convinced that force cannot resolve Lebanon's inter-Lebanese problem. This is because we are a people seeking stability, which can only be achieved through an understanding among us. But how can they resolve the problem with the Syrians? The Syrian has deployed his gun and is shelling you, and if you cannot tell him to depart by resisting, how will you be able to? What Lebanese has not negotiated with him over 15 years? Therefore, on the inter-Lebanese level, the question is bound to be resolved through negotiation. And the Lebanese Forces have their position in the negotiation process, in the political plan, and in the defense of Lebanon's future

As far as the liberation war is concerned, it is open to all Lebanese parties, not just the Christian, the Druze, the Sunni, or the Shi'ite, but to every Lebanese who does not want to see any occupier on his territory. Is that clear?

[Abu-Jawdah] What about relations with Iraq?

['Awn] No one should be worried at all: We are not in an alliance with Iraq, as people imagine. ('Awn ends)

He receives a telephone call and requests that contacts be suspended for some time. Then 'Awn added: "Iraq is backing the Lebanese political and military decisions concerning the liberation of Lebanon, the elimination of the occupation, and the restoration of its independence and sovereignty. We are not in an alliance stipulating that we go to attack Damascus. Nor do we have have any political or geographical ambitions there."

[Abu-Jawdah] If Lebanese-Iraqi relations are not an alliance, how would you describe them?

['Awn] Backing for the Lebanese decision. This means there is a difference: Our decision is made not in Baghdad but in Lebanon, and fraternal Iraq is backing the Lebanese decision. We do not go to Iraq to get decisions. If we say that we want to negotiate, this means that we have the capability to negotiate. We can negotiate without any involvement from Iraq in our decision. And if we say we will fight, Iraq will back the decision. Iraq is working within the Arab League charter. This means that no state has the right to interfere in another state's affairs or change any state's regime. It is backing

Lebanon because its cause is a just one. Besides, where are the Iraqis? Are they occupying our territory? Where are they? Every minute somebody says that there is an Iraqi army and technicians in Lebanon, but I do not know where they are. First and foremost, Iraq does not mortgage our political, military, or economic decision. As for the Syrian, he is an occupier and no one dares to confront him. He is running the airport, the police stations, everything.

[Abu-Jawdah] Did Iraq offer the help, or did you ask for it?

['Awn] Do you want us to repeat the same thing? This relationship is not based on any conditions.

[Abu-Jawdah] It is the first time in Lebanon's history that an Arab regime has emerged victorious to help Lebanon.

['Awn] ...

[Abu-Jawdah] What about the story of the FROG missiles?

['Awn] There is nothing to add to the missiles story. It is a weapon similar to the artillery weapon: Is the new element that it has a longer range than other weapons?

[Abu-Jawdah] Did it come to Lebanon as a help, or has a price been paid?

['Awn] Aid... this is all aid. Fraternal Iraq is backing Lebanon for nothing in return, within the framework of the Arab League charter. It is committed to its charter and to brotherly relations and is proceeding from a pan-Arab idea. The Arabs left the Lebanese arena open to Syria. Look and see how of a much mess Syria, Israel, and the world have made here. I want to purchase ammunition and arms, so Iraq has provided them. What difference does that make? Why not M-48 tanks instead of T-55's? If Iraq had had any M-48 tanks it would have sent them to us.

[Abu-Jawdah] Can we say that Minister Abu-Jamrah's visit was the beginning?

['Awn] No, no. It had nothing to do with that. Iraqi policy is based on foundations deeper, broader, and more comprehensive than interim relations. Iraq is following Lebanon's distinctive position among the Arab states and its social and political structure. It does not want Lebanon to leave the Arab environment.

[Abu-Jawdah] At your press conference you said: Leave the missile issue as a card in my hand. From your answer, can it be said that the missiles are present in Lebanon?

['Awn] No. Let them play politics. What do they mean? Do they want to say that there are missiles in Lebanon? If it were of any benefit to me to say that there are missiles, I would say so. And if it is of no benefit to me to say that, I will say that there are no missiles.

[Abu-Jawdah] There is talk about a solution to the missile problem.

['Awn] The missile issue is not a problem. The problem is the Syrian presence in Lebanon. The presence of weapons is not a problem. Tell me when any weapon was used against Syria. To date we have not killed so much as a Syrian chicken, whereas the Syrian Army has already bombarded half the Lebanese people.

[Abu-Jawdah] Does your answer reflect an Iraqi reservation?

['Awn] You can monitor what they say about the missiles in the Iraqi media.

[Abu-Judah] The Iraqi media say that the missiles are there.

['Awn] So long as the card is in my hand, I can conceal or introduce it. I can also throw the missiles into the sea and say they do not exist. Or I can deploy them and declare that they exist. I would like to know what those playing with the missile issue want. The disaster is that some people think they are big and so have the right to be more shrewd.

[Abu-Jawdah] Lebanon has not adopted an Arab policy since 1942, except at this time. Throughout its history it has supported either Egypt or Syria without gaining any benefit. For this reason, people want a confirmation from you as to whether there is a higher Arab policy.

['Awn] No. Because Iraq is the stronger in relation to Lebanon. It is committed to mutual relations, not relations of hegemony or anything else. Past relations were relations of control and hegemony, which is why there were terrible consequences. They reflected a kind of tutelage and hegemony. Iraq tends to give you a relationship that suits your own personality. You feel comfortable because it frees the relationship of complications and does not mortgage you.

[Abu-Jawdah] Some media means cite the "Baghdad pact."

['Awn] (Angrily) Brother, you are continuing to link us to Baghdad; fine (and here he directed a severe charge). Enough, let them rid us of their story. The Syrian ships (and here he made a serious accusation). Rid us of this complex. One must stop saying that so-and-so is serving Zionism or others. We have finished with that complex, and everyone must resolve his own problem peacefully. And the more one is in harmony with other Arab states over a solution to his problem, the better one will be able

to recover his own right, not others' right to that solution. So we are among those who support Arab solidarity when there is a solution with Israel. But they must not hold us responsible for some people's mistakes whenever a problem takes place. And the phrase Zionists (and here he made a serious accusation).

[Abu Jawdah] Can you describe the Arab committee's position?

['Awn] First of all, I am confident that the Arab committee will arbitrate for justice.

[Abu-Jawdah] Are the efforts facing any problem with Iraq?

['Awn] As far as we are concerned, we have a problem that has an international and Arab basis, namely, that relations between states are governed by international and regional charters and conventions. On that basis, our right is clear. Syria has no right to stay here any longer. It has no right to do what it is doing (here too he made a serious accusation).

[Abu-Jawdah] Was any Iraqi help offered in the past?

['Awn] I do not know.

[Abu-Jawdah] What were the circustances of your assignment as head of the government, and was the subject discussed before?

['Awn] No. One morning my participation in the government as a defense minister was discussed with me. So I wanted to contribute to any temporary solution. I accepted the post temporarily because I wanted my appointment as defense minister to be only circumstantial. In fact I wanted to remain Army commander. That was my response to Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil on the morning I was appointed head of the government.

[Abu-Jawdah] Whose idea was it that the military council should form the new government?

['Awn] Mine, after I was approached late at night.

[Abu-Jawdah] Are contacts still continuing with the minister who is boycotting the cabinet?

['Awn] We are military men. We served together for a long period of time, and we took the same oath.

[Abu-Jawdah] Is the number of military personnel increasing?

['Awn] We are not seeking to increase it substantially.

[Abu-Jawdah] You said in the past that the Army would be 40,000 strong.

['Awn] They exist. That is not what we lack.

Junblatt Gives Martyrs Day Speech in B'aqlin

NC2207195889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Speech by Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, at ceremony marking the B'aqlin martyrs day, in B'aqlin on 22 July—recorded]

[Text] Honorable audience, we all ask ourselves—and it is your right and the right of those who lost the most precious thing they possessed to ask themselves—where Lebanon is heading. I would have liked to preach good news, peace, coexistence, the success of the Arab tripartite committee headed by Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and a just, democratic system that would provide equality, prosperity, and assurance to all, from the farthest reaches of 'Akkar to the remotest areas of the south. I was hoping to tell you that the war had ended. I cannot say this, however, because it is my duty to tell you that the war is still in its beginning. It is my duty to say this because I had formerly urged you—and you responded—at the outset of the war of the mountain in 1982 to offer sacrifices and to embrace martyrdom. You sacrificed and embranced martyrdom. I urged you to march forward toward liberation, and you did. Now again I urge you to do the same. [applause]

I am saying this because I see the current stage as similar to the 1982 stage. It is as if we are facing an imminent and new isolationist-Maronite-Israeli invasion. I am saying it, and I bear the responsibility for what I say. I see the current stage as if we are about to face a new isolationist-Maronite-Israeli invasion. Today it has an Arab-Iraqi character but basically it is a new Maronite-Israeli invasion—an isolationist one. For this reason and at this fateful moment we urge our Christian brothers before any others, those who call themselves Arabs and reject isolationism, those seeking justice and equality who swam with the nationalist current—to adopt a true stance before it is too late. The issue might begin or has begun in Lebanon but its implications will go beyond Lebanon. No throne, no regime, no matter how powerful, no matter how many tanks, legions, and financial capabilities it possesses can help but be threatened if the new Christian-isolationist Israel—which is linked with the Jewish-Zionist Israel, which in turn is linked with the West—is established. If they want a new crusade, we will confront it. Indeed, we are compelled to confront it. [applause] If, however, they want a just peace then we also want a just peace. We are not demanding more than our rights. This is what I am saying today while we, in this hall, hear the sound of guns and know what is happening on the battlefronts. We urge the Christians first to utter the word of truth so that we can avoid a crusader war. Some of them have chosen the correct path after going astray. This can be said about Elie Hubayqah [former chairman of the Lebanese Forces' Executive Committee]. Vicious wars and much blood separated us from Elie Hubayqah. He then said, however: I am with you. So we came together. We ask the great silent sphinx, however, Sulayman Franjiyah, what his position is on

what is happening today. We merely ask him a brief question: Was the assassination of his son Tony Franjiyah by the hands of Lebanese isolationism, then represented by Bashir [al-Jumayyil]—for isolationism has different forms, that of Bashir, Amin, Samir [Ja'Ja'], Michel 'Awn, and tomorrow another—a mere accident? Was it a dispute about a minor matter, or was it a political issue? If it was a dispute over a minor matter, disputes happen every day. But if it was a political issue, then let him emerge from his silence and his ivory tower in Ihdin, Zgharta, or the highlands of Bsharri.

We ask Rene Mu'awwad, Michel Iddih, Jean 'Ubayd, and others who are eagerly pursuing the presidency what their position is on what is happening. Are they waiting for Michel 'Awn to be [word indistinct] and for Israel and Saddam Husayn to be victorious so that they would take advantage of that. We know the history of Raymond Iddih. We gave him a chance but he returned to his true origins as the son of Emil Iddih. [applause] Are all those like Raymond Iddih, son of Emil Iddih, or can we say that there is a Christian, specifically a Maronite, voice that is sincerely Arab? I will not speak about the poor people. They are people worthy of sympathy, both the Christian and Muslim poor. I am talking about the Maronite leadership. If this leadership persists in its stands, then it will be our right to say that we want a divorce to end the marriage that began in 1943 [year of national covenant]. No one is obliged to accept this Maronite marriage. We want a divorce. Let them take Monte Carlo. I will not go to Juniyah and Kasrawan. And we, let us live together in Beirut and its suburb, the mountain, Sidon, the South, and al-Biqa'.

I believe that we can live [applause] and we have enough resources to live. Tomorrow if voices are raised to say that Walid Junblatt wants partition, I will tell them no, Walid Junblatt does not want this. We want to live, and we will demand coexistence. At the same time we have the right, in order to defend our existence to demand—and I say it with total frankness—a complete and comprehensive union with Syria. [applause] We cannot continue to live in this dilemma of violence and under the shadow of Maronite political and economic colonialism, or under Maronite leadership, administered either by the patriarch or any other, even if some people go to al-Diman [summer seat of the Maronite patriarchate] or any other place. The issue is not to be resolved in al-Diman or in any other place. The issue concerns the demand of the Lebanese nationalist forces and Syria for radical political reforms. If, however, they want, as we have heard from some ambassadors—the French and U.S. ambassadors and some Arab ambassadors, Lakhdar Ibrahimi, and some non-Arab ambassadors—that they would give a promise to carry out reforms in return for Syrian withdrawal, from Jabal Lubnan specifically, as Bashir al-Jumayyil demanded of Syria in 1981 and 1982 to withdraw from Jabal Lubnan and take al-Biqa', then this will mean displacing all the Muslims, chiefly Banu Ma'ruf [Druze]. If they want this again we will not accept it. For this reason we tell them and demand of them—those who profess patriotic and pan-Arab Christianity such as Fu'ad al-Tahini and Rene Mu'awwad, and you know them better than I do—to adopt a historic stand to reject this scheme. Otherwise it would be our right to demand an absolute union with Syria.

In the final count, experience has proven that what is called Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and unity is all lies. All they want is to preserve the interests of the Maronite church and the interests of the church's henchmen, both Muslims and non-Muslims. They merely want privileges for Bkirki and some people in Beirut. They exploit the poor, both Christians and Muslims, in order to preserve the regime.

We want equality and justice, from Mays al-Jabal in the south to Tikrit in 'Akkar. This is our right. Otherwise, Lebanon will be as it was. We are burying it at this moment. This is what I wanted to say today at this historic stage and on this day in which we all remember the great Arab revolution, the revolution of Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir and Kamal Junblatt. [applause] We want to reaffirm that we will continue the path of Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir and Kamal Junblatt. We will continue to carry the torch of Arabism through close, objective, and basic alliance with Syria, with the Syrian Arab Army, with the Syrian Arab Ba'th Party, with all the Lebanese nationalist forces—all the Lebanese nationalist forces from Hizballah to all the fighters on all the fronts. [applause]

What do I propose? I renew my call to those who claim to be patriotic in the Christian ranks to take a stand now, otherwise it will be too late. I do not attach any importance to what Al-Huss or anyone else says. Al-Huss' pleadings are known. Words are not enough. In order to make it easy for himself and for us, I call on him to establish a public council to deal with the damage, because the damage will increase in Beirut, the mountain, and in all areas. I call on him to spend the budget, which has not been spent yet, on the nationalist areas, and specifically on Beirut and the mountain, or to gather us—there is no objection to bringing us together—in Beirut, Bayt al-Din, al-Biqa', or Damascus. He should bring us together, instead of sending nice-sounding, ambiguous letters to the Arab leaders or, as we were told, visiting al-Diman today. What matters is assisting the poor people in Beirut, Ra's al-Nab', and the suburb, and the mountain. What matters is political, social, and military steadfastness, and then to embark on frank talks with the Christians in Lebanon.

If they want unity, unity has conditions. If they want partition, we want unity with Syria. We will abandon all Lebanon. Everything called Lebanon's independence, unity, et cetera, is a myth. We will abandon it. There can be no middle solution. As for underhanded dealings and calling on the Arabs to lift the blockade in order to achieve a truce, the election of a president, and to prolong the time, we know that the Maronite arsenal has increased, and we know that the intention is only to dominate Jabal Lubnan. We are also aware that the

intention is to drive the Arabs from Jabal Lubnan to the southern suburb, Beirut, and everywhere else and to link Jazzin with Suq al-Gharb. When, God forbids, this happens, Israel will be present from Marj 'Uyun to Zgharta. This is the real scheme. They do not care about al-Biqa'; they do not want al-Biqa'. This is because there is a Muslim majority in al-Biqa'. They only want Jabal Lubnan. This has been a historic struggle for 230 years. They want Jabal Lubnan, and by coincidence we live in the mountain region. We resisted this scheme. We have succeeded so far. But it is my duty to draw your attention to the dangers of what is happening so that all the sacrifices will not go to waste, so that you will not sleep on silk, and so that you will not be deceived by what is happening in the large corridors and by messengers coming and going and by Arab committees formed here and there, whether they are six-member or three-member committees. This does not mean that I do not wish the Arab committee under Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz success. Just as his father unified the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and established justice there, we call on him to exert efforts to unify Lebanon and establish justice and Arabism here. Otherwise, we will be free to choose the way we want—and the way we want is unity and only unity with Syria. [applause]

Yesterday, just for your information only, for instance, the French and U.S. ambassadors came to us. The French ambassador, who is new here, said Lebanon is not like the rest of the Arab countries. We told him this is true, since Lebanon has a certain political and sectarian diversity that perhaps does not exist in the Arab countries and which we wish to preserve through a just and democratic regime. We want to get out of the 1943, or rather, the 1860 covenant. To this he said: But the Christians of Lebanon do not want to be like those of the Middle East. We told him: Tell us by God what is happening today to the Christians in the Middle East. It is a fact that there are more Arab Muslims than Arab Christians, but to date we, and you also, have not heard of any persecution against the Christians in the Middle East, whether in Syria, Egypt, Iraq, or elsewhere. Naturally, they have to play the game of the minority, like we could do if we were to return to the logic of the minority. However, the Christians of the Middle East have contributed, as we know and as we have read in history books, to Arab civilization, nationalism, culture, and unity. Regrettably—we thought France had changed its policy—the French ambassador wants to remind us of the time of the mandate and of 1860, when the French soldiers came to al-Shuf, in particular, to escort the Christian evacuees. We tell France, and powers greater than France, that France could return to Lebanon carrying the message of equality for all the Lebanese. But it will never return with its soldiers, and it will be defeated if it tries to do so. [applause]

For his part, the U.S. ambassador told us, as his predecessors had previously told us, deal with reality, deal with Michel 'Awn. We told him we will not deal with Michel 'Awn. You will have to find a suitable way to spare the Lebanese further suffering and sacrifice. Why don't you relieve us and take Michel 'Awn to Florida, which is the refuge for all tyrants, like Somoza and his kind, who all go there. Instead of giving us advice about Michel 'Awn, why don't you solve the problem of Noriega in Panama, for instance. We are willing to cooperate with any Christian who is frank and patriotic, but we will not deal with the military junta, regardless of the cost, because we know the intentions of and the dimensions of this junta's policy. Some Muslims unfortunately, are still on its side. However, these muslims will fail.

If we go back to history, when the Algerian war broke out there were some collaborators among the Algerians, but they are gone now and live in France today. Also in history, when the Jabal al-'Arab revolution [Druze-Syrian rebellion against the French] erupted, some Arabs, Syrians, or Druze collaborated with them, but the collaborators fell and Sultan Pasha al-Atrash ended victorious, just as the Algerian revolution did. [applause]

This is what I wanted to say today on this occasion, the day of B'aqlin martyrs, the day of the true great Arab revolution of Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. Today we pledge to continue the march. I will not make rosy promises to you, just as I never have done before. I ask you, and ask ourselves, to stand fast morally, politically, and materially. The battle is long, but we will win it.

Birri Cited on Tehran Meeting, FROG Missiles

NC2607071289 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has declared that fire can only be confronted by stronger fire, adding that we will bring missiles stronger than the FROG missiles. He pointed out that during our meeting with Hizballah in Tehran, we have made a joint decision to reach understanding regarding our positions in order to face up to our enemies in the occupied border zone.

Minister Birri stressed that from now on it will not be permissible for our blood to be shed on Beirut streets as Israel and Iraq are helping our enemies at home. He described the Tehran meeting as one of unification and an act of solidarity in the face of the schemes being concocted in the region by reactionary forces. Such a meeting must be followed by similar meetings both in Lebanon and Damascus. If anyone thinks we will surrender to political Maronism, he is dreaming. [passage omitted]

Minister Nabih Birri, who is now in Damascus, is scheduled to hold talks with senior Syrian officials on developments following his visit to Tehran.

Iraq Reportedly Warns Syria To Lift Siege

NC2507175289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] The BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY has quoted Arab diplomatic sources as saying that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has not received any invitation to attend a summit in Jeddah.

The same sources also told the BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY that the Iraqi president had addressed a warning to Syria through the tripartite committee last week, demanding that the siege be lifted within 2 weeks. If it is not, Iraq will be compelled to take specific measures to enable fuel and supply ships to enter the ports of the eastern area freely, the sources said. The measures include the escorting of these ships by Iraqi-flagged gunboats. Should the gunboats be shelled by Syrian artillery, Iraq would resort to other methods. These might include the institution of overland supply convoys to the eastern area, although this could entail repercussions that would definitely put Iraq and Syria face to face. To avert such developments, the agency adds, Iraq stressed the need to lift the siege within the 2-week period.

SLA Troops Fire on Norwegian UN Checkpoint

NC2507190489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] AFP has quoted a source in the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL] as saying that South Lebanese Army [SLA] personnel fired at a UNIFIL checkpoint today after they had forced their way through another checkpoint in the security belt. They caused no casualties.

The source said 12 SLA soldiers, in four vehicles, fired 100 bullets from their machine guns in the direction of a Norwegian unit checkpoint at the entrance to the town of Kawkaba, after having forced their way through another checkpoint manned by the Norwegians.

13 Wounded in Beirut Suburb 26 Jul

NC2607063989 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] According to security reports, guarded calm prevails along the traditional combat lines in Beirut, its southern suburb, and on the mountain except for sporadic bursts of sniper fire from East Beirut against the residential areas opposite it.

Fighting involving machine guns and rockets broke out at 1800 yesterday along the old market combat lines. Clashes were also reported along Hill 888 on the mountain. Limited clashes took place shortly after 2230 along the Museum-al-Barir crossing point. Skirmishes were reported along the Sodeco-Primo combat line.

Yesterday, the acts of aggression against the al-Shiyah area, particularly Marun Misk Street, left 13 citizens wounded, 4 of them from the same family.

Sudanese Interior Minister Visits Damascus

Abu-Salih Arrives 24 Jul

JN2407135089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Brigadier General Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and interior minister in fraternal Sudan, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus this morning.

He was received at Damascus International Airport by Interior Minister Dr Muhammad Harbah, the assistant to the minister, a number of heads of the Interior Ministry's departments, and senior officers of the Interior Security Forces. He was also received by the heads of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol and Arab Homeland Department and by the Sudanese ambassador in Damascus and the embassy staff.

Following his arrival, Abu-Salih gave a statement to the SANA correspondent in which he said that he carries a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from his brother, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC. He expressed happiness over visiting Syria and noted the strong, brotherly relations between the fraternal Syrian and Sudanese peoples.

Harbah Meets Abu-Salih

JN2407181789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Damascus—Interior Minister Dr Muhammad Harbah this afternoon received Brigadier Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih, member of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council and interior minister, and his delegation. The interior minister's two assistants, a number of ranking internal security forces officers, and the Sudanese ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

Talks revolved around the fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries, particularly between the two Interior Ministries, and ways to develop and bolster them in the interests of the two fraternal peoples and countries.

Al-Asad Receives Sudanese Officials

JN2407182589 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1800 today Brigadier Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and interior minister of Sudan, and Colonel Bakri Hasan Salih, member of the RCC. Attending the meeting was Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Abu-Salih handed his excellency the president a letter from Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC, dealing with the situation in Sudan.

Discussion during the meeting centered on Sudanese developments and bilateral ties.

Abu-Salih, Delegation Depart

JN2507135189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Brigadier Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and interior minister of Sudan, and his delegation left Damascus this morning at the end of a 1-day visit to Syria. During the visit, the Sudanese official delivered a letter to his excellency President Hafiz al-Asad from RCC Chairman Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir on the situation in Sudan.

The Sudanese official was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah, the assistant interior minister, Interior Ministry department directors, and senior public security officers.

Al-Shar' Receives Lebanese Shi'ite Leader

JN2507185389 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Faruq al-Shar', minister of foreign affairs, this morning received His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Sh'ite Council in Lebanon. During the meeting, they discussed developments in the Lebanese arena.

Al-Zu'bi Receives Tunisian Minister of Mines

JN2607073589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 2030 today received Lahbib Lazrag, the Tunisian minister of mines and energy who was accompanied by Al-Tahir al-Haj 'Ali, director of the Tunisian Company for Electricity and Gas; and Abdelhamid 'Ammar, Tunisia's ambassador in Damascus.

The meeting was attended by Dr Salim Yasin, Deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; and Dr Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs.

At the beginning of the meeting, Lazrag conveyed the greetings of the Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche to Al-Zu'bi who also asked him to convey his greetings to Baccouche.

The talks dealt with the development of Syrian-Tunisian relations through the Syrian-Tunisian Joint Higher Committee, and the implementation of agreements recently signed in Tunis by the two countries.

Al-Zu'bi also reviewed the results of the talks held by the Tunisian minister in Damascus, and expressed his satisfaction with the progress achieved on the level of boosting economic, commercial, industrial, agricultural, touristic, and information cooperation. They stressed the importance of promoting cooperation and integration between the two brotherly countries.

Commentary Assail Iraq's Lebanon 'Involvement'
JN2407180689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: It has now become clear that 'Awn and his military clique are determined to press ahead with the mission initiated by the Israelis in 1982—namely destroying Beirut, forcing the evacuation of its people, tearing Lebanon apart, and creating sectarian mini-states to further the Zionist scheme of destroying the nationalist spirit and preoccupying the Arabs in continuing conflicts. Nationalist Beirut has suffered the horrors of 'Awn's destructive war, coming under mad shelling in the context of a transparent move to foil the mission of the Arab committee on Lebanon and internationalize the Lebanese crisis with Israel receiving the lion's share.

Israeli officials have of late been saying they do not mind Iraqi weapons finding their way to the isolationist, conspiratorial faction in Lebanon. The Israeli statements have intimated that they bless the involvement of Saddam Husayn's regime and indeed favor a deeper embroilment. At a party held by Saddam's Beirut embassy, the stars of the function were 'Awn, Ja'Ja' and other isolationists. When the alliance is seen in the context of what is taking place in Beirut and the shelling directed at the nationalist areas, the picture becomes clearer, as do the dimensions of the conspiracy against Lebanon, Syria, and the Arab nation.

The question arises as to how a regime that professes Arabism allows itself to be allied with the agents of Israel—agents who have never made a secret of their identification with Israel and even boasted about this association and taken pride in antagonzing the Arabs. How can a regime that professes Arabism allow itself to be allied with Israel's agents and supply them with arms to be used against nationalist Lebanese who have refused to abandon their Arab credentials, taken to militant struggle to defend Lebanon's Arab character, stood up to the Israeli invasion, and continue to fight the Zionists in southern Lebanon and inflict heavy losses on them? How can a regime that professes Arabism allow itself to champion a conspiratorial regime that seeks to create another Israel in Lebanon—an entity no less sanguine and menacing than the criminal Zionist entity itself?

The Lebanese, the Arabs, and the world at large have grasped the dimensions of the black conspiracy. 'Awn's war, which is called a war of liberation, only seeks to liberate Lebanon from its own people the way the Zionists did in Palestine when they expelled the Arab population and created their racist, settler entity. Like the war of the Zionsits, 'Awn's war seeks to force the Lebanese out of their homes, stripping Lebanon from its environment and bringing it under Zionist custodianship for use as a base for aggression against Syria and the Arabs.

Just as some conspirators facilitated the Zionist mission in Palestine, the Iraqi regime is up to its ears in a comparable plot targeting the Arab identity of Lebanon. Because Syria is taking a determined stand against the plot of Israel and its agents, and because Syria is offering assistance and support to all honorable Lebanese, it is being targeted by the agents. These are banking on Syria's disengaging from the Lebanese cause and abandoning its pan-Arab commitment. These choose to ignore the fact that Syria's policies are inspired by its nationalist psyche and fateful identification with the Arab nation's causes. Such maneuvers and provocations will only serve to make Syria even more determined to help the Lebanese brothers not only in regaining their unity and achieving reconciliation but also in toppling all those conspiring against their destiny and future.

Afghanistan

Casualties at Soviet Embassy, Elsewhere Noted

BK2607062989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin attacked a military convoy of the Kabul regime in the Karez area and destroyed three vehicles on the Kabul highway. In another attack in the (Kambe) area, the mujahidin destroyed four vehicles and two tanks. Eight Kabul soldiers were killed and one military vehicle was destroyed during a clash with the mujahidin in Qandahar.

Six more soldiers of the Kabul regime were killed and 13 injured during an attack by the mujahidin in Jalalabad. Eleven Kabul soldiers defected to the mujahidin, while five others were captured.

Eighteen people were killed during a rocket attack on the Soviet Embassy in Kabul.

4 Injured in Kabul Rocket Attack 25 Jul

LD2507162789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] The killers of our Muslim people, who carry out any crime at the instigation of their masters, today fired three surface-to-surface rockets on the residential areas of Kabul city. The military section of BIA reports that three children and an adult were injured. Our compatriots also suffered material damage.

Political Frustrations Counter Military Gains

BK2607023389 Hong Kong AFP in English 0133 GMT 26 Jul 89

[By Anil Penna]

[Text] Kabul, July 26 (AFP)—The Afghan Government is consolidating recent battlefield gains while simultaneously trying to crack a frustrating political logjam in the Afghan conflict, analysts here say.

Militarily, the government seems to be holding its own after gains in the eastern Jalalabad sector.

Government forces have held on to the strategic garrison town of Samarkheyl after retaking it in an offensive three weeks ago that caught the mujahidin napping. The guerrillas still hold the surrounding mountains.

The recapture of Samarkheyl effectively broke the mujahidin's lengthy siege of Jalalabad, launched in early March less than 20 days after the last Soviet soldier pulled out of Afghanistan. Samarkheyl, the main defence line of Jalalabad, had served as an effective launching pad for rebel attacks on Jalalabad.

By retaking the town, and holding on to it with intensive carpet bombing and Soviet Scud-B missiles, government forces dealt a telling blow to the mujahidin, who have also been unable to break through in the southern Qandahar and southeastern Khost sectors, analysts said.

The Army has concentrated on maintaining and strengthening its gains rather than pushing rapidly forward to what it says is its ultimate objective, the Khyber Pass town of Torkham—a main rebel supply line.

"Consolidation is more important for us," said government spokesman Muhammad Nabi Amani. "For every step we take forward, we are trying to consolidate three steps we have already taken."

He said the holding action in Jalalabad and recapture of Samarkheyl had enormously boosted government forces' morale and dealt a "psychological blow" to the resistance.

The consolidation in the east and the mujahidin's inability to make a decisive breakthrough are seen by some analysts to have enhanced government credibility in the eyes of its own people and overseas.

But worrisome to President Najibullah is the fact that government efforts for a political settlement with the mujahidin are stalemated.

Kabul is backed by Moscow while the mujahidin are supported by the United States and Pakistan.

Mr. Najibullah's latest peace overture, a four-day ceasefire for the Hajj holiday this month and an appeal for unconditional talks, was a non-starter.

"A political stalemate is not what the government would relish," said a diplomat here who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"It (the Najibullah government) would like to break through politically because there is a limit to its own stamina," he said.

Efforts for talks with the Peshawar-based mujahidin groups have failed over the thorny question of participation of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), spurned by the mujahidin as a "Soviet puppet."

Kabul, on the other hand, has refused to consider suggestions that the PDPA step aside to help bring about a political settlement.

As the deadlock persists, the government has intensified efforts to win over mujahidin field commanders inside Afghanistan, sidestepping the seven-party alliance based in Peshawar.

The Kabul government claims 40,000 mujahidin have either stopped fighting or switched sides since completion of the Soviet troop pullout February 15.

"The local commanders are fed up with war. It is only the extremist groups staying in Pakistan which want a continuation of war," Mr. Amani said.

Analysts expect the government to pursue its military action to try to break the mujahidin's resolve.

"They will try to knock the mujahidin into submission, increase the pressure on them to talk peace and settle," said a diplomat. "The mujahidin are in a jam—the only way they can get out of it is through a decisive military victory which is not coming their way," he said.

Analysts say the PDPA government seems to be working against three deadlines—the July 31 superpower talks in Stockholm on Afghanistan, the opening of the U.N. General Assembly session, and the Nonaligned Movement summit in Belgrade.

"In each of them its position has been considerably strengthened after the Soviet pullout. Now the task is to consolidate," an analyst said.

The task also extends to the consolidation of the party by burying deep and bitter factional differences, a process that appears to be under way.

The consolidation steps dovetail with a growing anti-Pakistan and anti-American propaganda blitz to drum up domestic and international support.

"The government is playing its cards intelligently. It has demonstrated its staying ability and slowly changing world opinion in its favor," he said.

Quietly, Kabul has moved to improve its relations with Iran, whose role in any settlement would be significant.

A three-day state mourning period was declared for Ayatollah Khomeyni's death, although Tehran refused government representation at the funeral while accepting mujahidin mourners.

Observers also cite cooperation between the two countries in handling the hijacking of an Afghan airliner last month.

Najibullah Addresses N. Afghans 19 Jul

LD2407011489 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Speech by Afghan President Najibullah to representatives of the people of the regions of Mir Bacheh Kowt, Qarah Bagh, Shakar Darreh, Estalef, and Kalakat at the Delkoshah Palace of the Presidency on 19 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. May peace and progress be upon Muhammad, the messenger of God, his family, and all his companions.

It is a great pleasure for me to meet you, the elders, representatives, and honorable leaders of Kohdaman [name for area in northern Afghanistan] for the second time during this sensitive moment in the history of our beloved and dear country, the proud Afghanistan which is the common home of all Afghans. [passage omitted]

Destiny is once again placing another great historical question before you, the children of our proud and famous fathers and forefathers. The question is, how should you act? Should you act in the tradition of your fathers and forefathers who not only saved and honored your pride and your shelma [end of turban hanging down, referring to honor] but the shelma of all Afghanistan's people, or you should act like those people? I am not hiding from you. It is obvious to you. Is there any front in which Arabs do not take part; the Wahhabis do not take part; do not carry money with them in sacks; do not order these commanders; and do not provoke Muslims against Muslims and brother against brother? I think you agree with me on this issue. Or do you think that there are no Wahhabis here [in Afghanistan] or that there are no Arabs? [passage omitted]

Today the servant of the servant of the British, Pakistani generals and Wahhabis, lead our trenches. They give money and tell people to fight not only against the state but against every Muslim. Not only do they tell people to fight against every Muslim, but they say one party should fight against other parties. Isn't this the truth? I heard a few days ago—I ask you and perhaps you can confirm this—that Anwar Khan [a commander in that area] jailed a number of Arabs. A family, an honorable woman, came to him and told him that the Arabs insult our honor and pride. Where did he come from? He [Anwar Khan] was inflamed with his Afghan pride and he put the Arab in jail. It might be true and it might be false. [passage omitted]

I do not agree with what the professor [a member of the audience] said, that there is the question of languages. As if the question of Pashton and Tajik is discussed. He did not say it openly, but I will say it openly. He says that as if people are commenting that Najibullah is from Jonobi [the south] and we are from Shamali [the north]. This is that old hostility; the enemies and British brought war among us and you impose those old hostilities on us. It is not like this. I have proof for you. [passage omitted]

Dear compatriots, I do not fight with Tajiks. It is my Pashtons who fight against me. You should not allow such provocative words, efforts, and issues that will scatter your nation. The question is, why should Pashton fight Pashton? Why should Pashton confront Hazara? Why should Hazara confront Hazara? Why should Tajik stand against Tajik? Let us come and see. We begin with Jamiat-e Eslami.

Are there not conflicts among the commanders of Jamiat-e Eslami. Isn't there a big Jamiat-e Eslami and a small Jamiat-e Eslami? Isn't there disagreement within the Hezb-e Eslami? [passage omitted]

A command whose name I do not want to mention wrote to me when the Soviet forces were still here. I replied to him. I wrote to him about the needs of the Afghan people and about our responsibility towards the people—it does not matter whether we're talking about this trench or that trench, both of us claim to serve the people. He sent another letter to me and said that everything I had said was correct, but that I had left one thing out: Namely, the existence of the Soviet forces. Why didn't I mention that the Soviets are in this country, he asked.

I wrote to him again. I told him that is correct. First I pull the Soviets out of his region, then he takes the responsibility of ensuring security in that region.

He replied again that no; he said he belongs to Afghanistan and I am the President of Afghanistan. It is not the issue of one region. He said his question is about the entire country of Afghanistan. The Soviets should leave the entire country of Afghanistan.

I wrote to him again and told him that if the Soviets leave, others may take their place. What if American advisers come and if Wahhabi Arabs come, and generals and majors of Pakistan come? He replied to me that in such a case, then we are Afghans. You prove your Afghan tradition and then we will prove our Afghan tradition. I recently wrote to him again. His response was very good this time. I wrote to him and said: Didn't I tell you that they [Wahhabis and Pakistanis] will come? Here they are. This is not a question of interfering in our country, it is aggression. [passage omitted]

You are telling me that you do not need weapons. We need food. We need bread. Our people are hungry. There is no cultivation, no agriculture, no work, no economy. An esteemed uncle of mine at this meeting gave some statistics that the economy is destroyed. It is still being destroyed. I would like to ask you a question. Which path should we follow? The path of Mer Masdidi Khan? The path of Jalandar Khan? The path of Barzo Khan? The path of Mer Darwish Khan? Or the path of the Wahhabis? Or the path of Pakistani brigades and generals? Or the path, orders, and instructions of the Americans? You tell me which one I should pursue. [Audience replies: Our fathers' path.] We will follow the path of fathers and forefathers. Thank you for giving me a firm reason and a strong base and foundation for us to follow the proud path of our fathers and forefathers, which belongs to all of us. [passage omitted] Let us come and discuss the greater issues and then we will slowly discuss your issue, that is the issue of the path. Do you have time? Do you want to listen?

The first issue is the issue of the homeland. Our country has been destroyed. It is the second and third time that Jalalabad has been attacked. By whom? Only by the opposition. No. By Pakistani militias. By commandos. By Arab mercenaries with deadly weapons which come from abroad. The fertile land of Nangarhar has been destroyed. There are attacks on Khowst every day; attacks on Qandahar. The entire country is consumed by war. Is there any cultivation, any agriculture? Aren't factories closed? How can I run the textile firm when there is no cotton and you have not cultivated the raw materials? How can I produce sugar when there is no beetroot? How can I build (?houses) when there is no cement? How can I operate a silo when there is no coal? [as heard] How can I feed people. Schools are destroyed. Roads are destroyed. Telephone lines are destroyed. There is no hospital. Whose property is this? Is this state property? Or is this the property of the nation? They were built as a result of your hard work. Mosques are being destroyed. [passage omitted]

A number of people say that we want to win the war. I want to say one word and one sentence. He who is victorious in war or successful in war is the real failure. Victory over whom? Successful over whom? Over your people. Over the graveyards. Whom are they going to rule? Whose amir of Islami and amir of homeland will they be? [reference to Gulbuddins] Amir over widows, over orphans, over the innocent children who are attacked by blind rockets. Their hands are cut; their throats are cut; their knees are cut. Then to rule over such people and say that we are successful and that we should be proud. There is no greater failure than this. There is no greater defeat than this. [passage omitted] Is this victory, over war to kill your dear one, your father, and your children, and then to rule over his sorrow and pains, and say at the end that we won the jihad, we won the war and we are victorious?

No one will be harmed by the war except Afghanistan. Pakistan will not be harmed. Saudi Arabia will not be harmed. The United States will not be harmed. No foreign country will be harmed. Even the Soviets will not be harmed. If its soldiers were here yesterday they have gone home now. Only the Afghans, the home of the Afghans, will be harmed. [passage omitted]

I said that if I take weapons from one infidel they [extremists] take weapons from 20 infidels. We have decided and said let us come and compile all the weapons and then return them where they came from. Thus we remove rifles from the life of the people of Afghanistan and give this liberty to the people of Afghanistan—whoever they elect to take power. They have destroyed our country. The house—the house of our family—under whose roof we lived has been destroyed. I tell you that none of us will die faithfully, because we did not show love to our homeland. [passage omitted]

When I told the Soviets to leave I said: You, too, go on and do not allow Pakistanis or Arabs. Do not bring in U.S. generals or advisers with you here, or I will arrest them in one of the provinces. We sit next to each other and hold talks; either you might be blamed or I might be blamed. [passage omitted]

The territorial integrity of your homeland is in danger; your homeland could become divided and dismembered. [passage omitted]

You go and see the camps and find out what is going on there. We begin from Afghanistan:

The Kabul-Jalalabad road was closed on the first days. Then we opened it and motor vehicles came from the other side and an attack took place on the vehicles. They took goods away from the women and threw them into the river. They took women with them into the mountains.

What is going on in the camps? In the name of honor and jihad for Islam the men are being sent to the fronts. Until yesterday if they went to the front voluntarily under the pretext that jihad was against the Soviets, today they go to the front by force. The Afghans have never been so insulted during the history of Afghanistan. It makes one cry and panics; now you say to me that pleasure comes from mercy, not from retaliation. The person who brought this Arab and destroyed my homeland, the person who brought the United States and destroyed my homeland and my religion, and who plays with my honor, dignity, prestige, and pride—what should I do with him? What do you do as Afghans? [passage omitted] You are telling me to open the road. I will tell you briefly that our friends, the friends who have gone to see Anwar Khan [last name indistinct], told us: We will open the road. They said that first, private vehicles should pass. Then we will see and might allow the commercial vehicles, and finally we will allow state vehicles.

I want to ask you: What do state vehicles carry from Hayratan to Kabul? You know this very well because not just one, two, or three, but hundreds of vehicles are being stopped and emptied. What do they bring? Oil, sugar, flour, wheat, and butter. For whom? For the 2 million people who live in Kabul. They are old; they are sick. [passage omitted]

Now I want to mention a series of statistics to you. As one of my esteemed uncles [expression for honoring someone] who is a businessman and I know him, talked about the transportation of his raisins. I want to tell you that we tried to seek ways for the Soviet troops to leave Afghanistan. However, I have a complaint. My complaint is that when the Soviet troops were stationed on these roads—come, let us not hide words from each other—most of these commanders were sitting in Soviet posts eating soup. Have you forgotten? The war was not over these posts; they were saying hello and greeting each other. Then, in 1367 [year beginning 21 March 1988] after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces, instead of ending war, our losses during the whole of 1367, when the Soviets were still here, were only around 150 vehicles, whereas this year, during the first quarter of the year, during only 3 months, 275 vehicles have been destroyed. Should I complain or not? These things happened on this road.

You accuse us saying they have come with the Soviets; they are the Soviets' friends. But in the time of the Soviets, fewer cars were burned. When there are no Soviets, the Afghan is involved with you, and still vehicles are being stopped and burned. Last year, some 11,081 tonnes, make it 11,000 tonnes, of state goods were either taken or set on fire. While during only the first 3 months of this year, the figure stands at 5,000 tons destroyed. We still have another 9 months in front of us. Some 87 vehicle drivers have been martyred on the road and several others injured. [passage omitted]

I have said many times and I repeated it when you came here: Some friends suggested that the national reconciliation does not work satisfactorily, that the members of these commissions do not come from the core of the people, and that they are not genuine representatives of the people. Allow us to elect suitable people and form commissions; this would definitely produce a satisfactory result.

I have not forgotten and perhaps you also remember what I said to you during the last meeting and when I asked you to choose your representative from your own people and go to your commanders. You asked for 10 days; you said you would contact all commanders in Merbachakot, Goldara, Shakardara, Kalakan, Qarabagh, and Islalef and bring all their suggestions and proposals. I have noted my statements and I say them again: The government is ready to consider your and their needs. You ask the armed groups to maintain security in the regions, to restore security on the highway so that there are no road blocks; then the government is ready to supply what you need. Instead of stopping trucks we guarantee you supplies; send your trucks or take our trucks with you. Unload them and distribute the goods between yourselves. I remember these words very well; I know there is no agriculture, work, and sowing of the land. People have children—wives and kids—and they all want food.

As president of Afghanistan I have a great responsibility. I regard every son of this land as my son, and every woman and elder of this country as my mother and father. Have I not said this to you? Ten days have passed, 20 days, 1 month. However, I noticed that attacks were not reduced but increased. Instead of one motor vehicle, 10 motor vehicles were set on fire; and instead of 10 motor vehicles, hundreds of them were burned out. For some days we retaliated: Operations took place from the air and on land, and everywhere against these regions. The next day we said: There is no power except with God. Until when? I will meet these elders again. [words indistinct] If there was a mistake on our side you should forgive it. I have changed the path and road.

Esteemed elders, dear friends; [words indistinct] the bloodshed must stop. Killings should not increase. All those being killed are Muslims. I repaired the road completely. Do you know how thick the dust is on this road? We have recently started to repair and put gravel

on this road and then put ashphalt on it. After only one journey a car takes a week to repair. We can repair the engine but our driver falls ill after 1-2 months becuase of the dust they inhale. They lay in bed. Can you see, it is difficult for us? In order not to confront them we have turned our backs and have chosen another path. I have announced that all these goods will reach you, reach the commanders. Select their representatives? Then what is the war for? [as heard] What do they get after setting fire to a motor vehicle, killing drivers, and injuring a number of innocent and Muslim persons? When they just stop the motor vehicle, they get these goods without killings. [passage omitted]

I had said to appoint a commission. Now they say again to let them select a commission. Surely I say that the commission should be appointed. However, I have one question: Should we think of general, national, and public questions or should we think of opening one road, although it is part of this issue? This should be on the condition that the private motor vehicles who have business with them should be allowed through and the government vehicles which bring bread, flour, and wheat for the two million poor people should not be allowed to cross the road. With these [private] vehicles they transport wheat and other things. They also allow vehicles to transport grapes, as the grape season is coming, and they should transport grapes and raisins. When 3 months have past and Sonbollah ends [22 September] then we can again [words indistinct].

Do it like this, esteemed friends. Do it like this. However, this is not a promise, oath, honor, Afghanism, nor is it [word indistinct].

I want to solve the issue from (?here), so that peace is restored in the (?localities). Undoubtedly it affects me when my esteemed uncle took off his turban. The other day alone 62 rockets were launched on Kabul, 62 rockets. Eighteen persons were killed and 105 were injured. Have you gone to these hsopitals once? My esteemed uncle took his turban off before me, to whom should I take my hat off [sign of beseeching]?

As you know, during every Id I go to hospitals. During this Id I did have the courage to enter these hospitals. I have sent my representatives and sent gifts with them. However, sending representatives or gifts cannot take the place of loss of one's son. [passage omitted]

Go ahead and plead with them. [Tell them]: Brothers, I have tanks, aircraft, and everything; however, I do not use them. The country is in ruins, Islam has disappeared, and my country's honor has been sold to the highest bidder; so, let us sit down together. We Afghans should sit down together—we are capable of doing this—have something to eat, and talk it over. We will sit on rugs and cushions. We will then find out who is to blame and who is innocent. We will settle accounts and then apologize to one another.

We must stop the killing of innocent people. We must find out who is responsible for giving these orders to kill the innocent.

As I told you before, when a house catches fire, you put it out. However, they are firing rockets continuously. But we are all Afghans; we belong to the same family. You say that all Afghans in the north, south, east, and west are one. Now I ask you: What about the seven-party alliance? First, they are lying when they say they are not occupying the cities because of their regard for the people living there. Every day they fire 20,000 rockets on Jalalabad. Okay, I will accept this. [sentence as heard] But take Kabul: Over 2 million people have gathered here to have a roof over their heads and to be able to sleep in peace. But they, too, are being killed by rockets.

They claim to control 90 percent of the country. If 50-60 percent of them live in the villages, then the rest of them live in the cities. No one fires on their own supporters. No one hits their own supporters with rockets. And still they hope that the Afghan people will vote for them, will raise their hands for them. The murderers!

I wish they would fight the government and the Armed Forces, though they are also their Muslim brothers. But they are enlisted people. We bring them into the Armed Forces by means of a call-up. They should fight Muslims like them because they are in the Armed Forces.

What about the 90 percent of their supporters in Afghanistan? Why kill them with rockets? Forget these things. [sentence as heard] Look at the villages and provinces: Why have they engaged in fighting between political parties, between one section of society and another? We Afghans fight among ourselves everywhere. Let us free ourselves from the yoke of the foreigners and enemies. Unless we solve the problems among ourselves, another 3 months will pass and will result in the signing of protocols and establishing of commissions. [sentence as heard] They will give some ground and we will give some ground and the way will be open. But when an Arab or a Pakistani major comes in 3 months, the fighting will start again. What can I say? [1-minute break in transmission]

I repeat my proposal: The government is ready to supply you with needed goods; it is ready to transport them to groups and to you. Commanders and group leaders are also sons of this country. They are part and parcel of this people. We will try to carry out our duties to them as well by supplying them with goods. We will send these goods to them via their representatives.

Our main goal remains the end of the war. The war must end and the communication lines must open. Do not say that because the road is closed 200,000 people from Shamali do not receive goods. Two million people of Kabul also do not have goods. The people of Lowgar and Gardeyz also do not receive goods. The people of Ghazni also do not receive goods. Oruzgan and Zabol also do not

receive goods. Whereas I do not accept responsibility for closing the road, the Mujahidin have. The closing of the road is not my responsibility. It is the aliens who want to kill the people in order to impose a seige on the cities so that the poor people lose their patience and revolt against Najibullah. But the people have seen destruction, they have seen damage to religion; they have experienced insults and disrespect. Therefore they accept starvation but they are not prepared to accept those other things.

You know from experience that 5 months after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces people did not lose patience and forebearance and did not follow the Mujahidin's course. I tell you unambiguously, and I do not conceal it from the people of Afghanistan that before the withdrawal of Soviet units from Afghanistan, it was thought that we were to blame. The more we told the people that we invited the Soviet forces in order to ensure the security of the country against the Pakistanis, the Americans, and the Arabs, the less people listened. They said we were responsible. You brought the Soviets and they occupied the country, so eject the Soviets.

I do not hide it from you that the sympathy of the people had been with the mujahidin. Had the heads of the formations been loyal to this country and had not they been in the hands of the aliens, had not they been guided by Pakistani intelligence, by Americans, and by Saudis, they would have declared on the very day the Soviets left Afghanistan: Brothers, we were fighting for the independence of our country. We ejected the Soviets. Now we do not kill our brother, son, sister, and mother. We do not want to destroy our country, therefore we lay down our arms. We are not the killers of the children of this country, our brothers. Najibullah has announced elections and we are going to take part in the elections. They should have come to you saying that they had regained your freedom and saying: Now tell us who are you going to vote for. Ask me who should you have voted for—the majority of you should have voted for the formation heads. But they were not free. They had become the slave of the slaves. They were not free. They were told: No. Go and destroy your country. Ruin your Islam. Sell your dignity and honor.

Five months have passed since the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan; the people of Afghanistan have made their decision. The hatred of the people of Afghanistan is stirred against the mujahidin. Two-thirds of the internal commanders—I have said this many times—deserve my respect because they have not left their country, because they have borne the burden of war in the country, and have suffered extremely. Therefore if in the first place there is the issue of participation in the sovereignty, these commanders should be those who are to take part. Not those who have made a business, those who have filled banks, those who even have bodyguards, and the lowest ranking persons who have cars and palaces. When have they gone to the battlefields and fought? They only receive sacks of dollars and dinars and then distribute them to others and ask them to kill their own brother.

I wish they had been here and fought in the first battle line. Gulbuddin secretly came in, but to hide himself he instructed rockets to be fired on Kabul, even if it meant 50 percent of his supporters being killed; no matter. He should remain alive. He claims that all people back him. I have said that the people of Afghanistan would revenge their blood and they should really carry out revenge upon their murderers, no matter whether they are internal or external, because they are the sons of freemen of these valleys, ravines, and mountains. I am telling you this clearly.

Our aim is to end the war, to open lines of communication, and for the supply of goods to the people. We want tranquility for the people. But who causes inconvenience for the people? I leave the judgement to you. [passage omitted]

It is the religious and civil duty of the government to supply the people of Kabul and other provinces with food. They are Muslims and human beings and have children as you do. They need bread and butter. But the extremists receive instructions to destroy the vehicles carrying food, sugar, and fuel for the people. I ask you: Who are the Muslims who have the right of stopping the bread of another Muslim? Do they have the right to attack the vehicles carrying basic goods for people under the pretext of being government vehicles? Suppose that not an Afghan, but an infidel or a Russian, carries food for people. Would the extremists from the point of view of Islam have the right to block the way for them? Right now most of the material you see in the market does not come from foreign countries, which are infidels. The pencils and notebooks you buy for your children do not come from infidel countries. Foreign goods are not the only goods in the markets. These goods were there yesterday as well in the market; they were there in the time of Muhammad Daud Khan, and Zahir Shah, the former king. Because our country was kept so backward we could not make even a needle. Everything came from these infidel countries. Why did they not block the roads at that time?

We, from the point of view of religious laws, have no right to block the roads, even to the infidels if they carry goods for Muslims. Yesterday Soviet convoys passed through these roads. The commanders did not attack them. You know all the facts. Convey our complaints to them and it will reach them. I request that what I say today to be broadcast to them so that if there is anything in their hearts for Islam, for our country, any Afghan dignity and brotherhood, to judge for themselves. Forget about the things which the United Nations decided to supply to the people—not only them but the mujahidin groups. We agreed that material should be sent to them. The UN convoy moved through Shamali to take food and material to Panjsher.

You know what happened? Not only did they stop government vehicles, but they also stopped the UN assistance which we facilitated. We told the United Nations that it did not matter if yesterday it sent aid to Pakistan. We said: You can supply them here as well; you are free. But they stopped the UN goods and vehicles. What do you call this, sir? They were not Soviets. They were under the UN flag. I will tell you that they were friendly with the Soviets yesterday. Why should losses be higher now than before? I leave the judgment on this to you.

They alleged that Islam was in danger here. With your own eyes you see that Islam and Islamic shari'a are dominant here and becoming more important every day. I do not want to describe what has been done for Islam. Islam's five fundamental tenets exist in Afghanistan. They told us that since the Soviets had come, they would wage a jihad. The day after the Soviets left, the war would end. The Soviets left; we saw them off. They wrote to tell me that I should live up to the Afghan code of conduct, after which they would give me their hand in the Afghan tradition. I fulfilled my part. Where is their hand? Why do they now bring in the Arabs and Pakistanis? You have confirmed that there was an Arab in every group. I have information that there are Arabs in all groups in Laghman, Shakar Darreh, Parvan, and Kapisa—everywhere. There are Arabs in Jalalabad, Sarowbi, and Qandahar. Some of them angered the internal commanders to the extent that they eliminated some and arrested some others. They not only make them fight with me, but they also make them fight one another. They believe that the Afghan people should disappear; honor, Islam, and their country should disappear.

OK, the Soviet units have left. Now the third question: Najib should turn over his position to them. When Najib turns over his position, peace will be restored to the country. O dear brothers: Was the 11 years of fighting only for this position? The nation suffered the death of 1 million people and the injuring and maiming of another 1.3 million. You should have said this right from the beginning.

Now let me tell you this: Brothers, this position does not belong to Najib. If it were my personal property I would happily give it to you. This is the property of the people and the nation. I say: I was elected by the Grand Assembly. You do not accept this and allege that the Grand Assembly was a puppet. I say: Let us then convene another Grand Assembly. They say no; they do not want to convene a Grand Assembly. Brothers, we must do something different then. As I said before: We shall go to the people and hold elections. Let us give the people of Afghanistan a chance to make a decision. They can give the position to anyone they like. They may give it to me or to you. They may even give it to neither of us and elect a third party. They reject this, too. Surrender on your own or we will take it by force. If it were only myself and 10 of my friends, I assure you I would ask and implore these friends to take a plane and go to another country where no one can hear our voices so that this country can achieve peace and people can live in tranquillity.

There are 200,000 party members, 500,000 Armed Forces members, and 1 million social organization members—the youth organization, the trade union, the union of writers, the union of poets, and so on. Let us not count them as 2 million but as 1 million. [sentence as heard] Now if every one of them has a family of five, how many do they number? Five million people. You tell me: How can I put them in a sack and drown them in the Indian Ocean so that they [the mujahidin] can come rule the country? It is not possible—party members, members of social organizations, and the Armed Forces. What will happen if the government is turned over to them? When they arrive they will put to death all of them; you will see a bloodbath. Therefore, even if I repeatedly tell them to step aside, they reply that if they are going to be killed, why not die fighting? The consequence is a continuation of the fighting. I cannot put 5 million people in a sack and drown them in the ocean. If you know of a miracle, please tell me. Even if we could dispose of those 5 million, the question then is: To whom do we hand over the government?

First they formed Ahmad Shah's government. They said it was still-born so it should be replaced and new elections held. Ask all the commanders in the country whether they held elections in Afghanistan. Many important commanders who suffered in the fighting and lived in caves for 10 years were not even informed about the shura. Some of them were informed a day before, in order to be just informed. When asked why they did not hold elections, they said they did not hold elections in Afghanistan because the bombardment by the Afghan Government did not allow them. Right, there was a bombardment inside the country. Why did you not invite commanders who fought on your behalf for 10 years? He abandoned his children, his wife, and his property to fight the Soviets. They did not inform most of them. You should inquire into this.

I refer to the main commanders in the war. They asked those who worked in their offices, those in their families, and those who were known by the CIA. They went to the Council. We told them that since they could not hold elections here because of air bombardment, they should have at least held elections among the refugees that they say number 5 million—3 million are in Pakistan and 2 million in Iran! They should have at least held elections inside the refugee camps! Do you know of any elections that have been held in any refugee camps? There have been none!

On the contrary, the refugees arose in protest and held demonstrations because our representatives are not among those electing the Council. The forces of Gulbuddin came and disrupted the demonstrations, and incredible clashes occured. They [the Gulbuddin forces]

escaped from the refugees, went to Islamabad, and under the supervision of the military intelligence of Pakistan formed their government. They could not even hear the opinion of those that they themselves had invited. They finally appointed 14 people who went away for 2 days and returned with a government, assigning various people as president, premier, interior minister, and minister of defense.

What sort of government was that? It was not elected in Afghanistan, and no elected commanders nor refugee representatives were there. OK—no matter who they appointed, we say that the ISI [Inter-services Intelligence—Pakistani intelligence organization] formed this government. When the president of this government says one thing, Gulbuddin says another thing, and Gaylani says something else. Gulbuddin says that we had decided first that this interim government should exist for 3 months, after which time it should go to elections. Gaylani says the elections should be after 6, not 3, months. Mr Mojadeddi, who as president heads the government, likes the taste of power, and says it will be time to form a new government once we have been in Afghanistan for 1 year.

Who can settle this squabble among them? Should there be elections in 3 months, in 6 months, and/or once they have been in Afghanistan for 1 year? They fight over the place to which to transfer government to Afghanistan as well, dear friends. Yonus Khalis says that we are transferring the government to Nangarhar; Mojadeddi says that we are transferring it to Konar; Sayaf says to Zazi, Paktia, and Orgun. They squabble over this.

They appointed a number of ministers. The ministers should have their organizations with deputy ministers, etc., but there is no sign of such a thing. Consider this: On the one hand there is the Ministry of Defense and on the other Mr. Gulbuddin has his own military committee—the military committee of the Hezb-e Eslami of Gulbuddin! If the Ministry of Defense is valid then what is this military committee for? On the one hand they have the Finance Ministry and on the other hand they have the financial committee of the Hezb of Gulbuddin and other parties.

What are these committees for, since weapons are reaching them, and money is coming to them. They do not want these distributed through the Ministry of Defense. They want to distribute them through their own military committee. They do not agree on this either. The government is on the one side—they again formed a government for each group.

What is the quarrel over? Look, Wakil is our minister of foreign affairs. He goes to the Nonaligned Movement, to the UN, or to other international gatherings all the time. He goes there trying to establish peace, and security and to put forward various proposals.

They, too, have appointed a foreign minister for themselves—Gulbuddin. Mr. Gulbuddin, with a Pakistani passport in his pocket and travelling on an Arab aircraft, went to a number of countries to be officially recognized. He was recognised only by Saudi Arabia and two other countries to whom Saudi Arabia gives dollars and dinars. He failed. It was recently announced that the foreign minister, Gulbuddin, has come to Afghanistan. What is he doing? He is going to tour the fronts.

What does the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have to do with war fronts?! It would be like our minister of foreign affairs telling Tanay, the minister of defense, that he wants to do something in Tanay's place. Our minister of defense is there, and he knows his duties. I am citing these examples to let you know that it is a government such that if, in reality, it comes to Afghanistan, each of them will be playing his own tune.

They do not care about their president or whatever they were told by their Ministry of Defense. Each one of them is a Napoleon; each one an emperor; each one a king. You tell me for whom you will vote. Suppose we threw our millions into the sea, too,—what will happen if they come and begin fighting each other?

At this moment, leave aside the cities in which regions they are not fighting each other. What would happen if they came to Kabul and began fighting each other, saying to one another that they are the ones who deserve to take over the government and then began fighting brother against brother, daughter against mother, son against father, house against house and street against street? Would you allow me to let Afghanistan become another Lebanon? At lease now there is relative stability. We sit together and talk for 3 or 4 hours. [words indistinct] This is why we put forward this question, so that our dear brother would remove the hostility. Deciding who should stay and who should go away cannot solve the problems. Stepping down cannot solve the problems. Coming together can resolve them. Let us reconcile with one another. Let us create national unity instead of division. God has said, "Grab the rope of God and do not divide." Let us grab the unity ordered by God, Islam, the Afghans, and the nation, so that we can achieve something.

They say, however, that they will continue the fighting. I tell you that continuing, prolonging the fighting will not benefit any party engaged in the fighting. Ten years of war proved that it has not been useful. Those who want fighting want a ruined country, a ruined economy, and want to be the guardian, governor, president, amir, and leaders of thousands of orphaned children and widows. In every dispute the only sensible course is talks and negotiations. Resolving problems depends on our gallant decision to come together and say that as we fought bravely now we can bravely resolve our problems. If this is not their intention, I tell you that the refugees over there and commanders inside the country—I have the information—have made up their minds; they have sold

out to the aliens, they cannot solve the problem of Afghanistan and they have proved their incompetence. They hunger for power, their ambitions, and their opportunism do not allow them to settle their problems. We, the refugees, the people of the country and their representatives and internal commanders will solve the problems. We are hopeful this will happen and this is the good news of change. I send you to the internal commanders as messengers to discuss with them the issues and tell them to take the authority in their hands because they [the mujahidin leaders] have failed to show competence. Tell them they are the sons of this country and they should no more allow their country be destroyed, their honor be sold, and their Islam be damaged. We should make this brave decision and none of the two sides need the aliens' inteference. Aliens should not resolve our problems. If we sat with one another there would be no room for the aliens. Unfortunately, if we do not sit with one another the aliens will make us their instruments.

Therefore, dear brothers, we demand that the war cease. Afghans like their forefathers will start talks and understanding. They will resolve their differences through talks and negotiations, reduce the intensity of war, and say farewell to the war. The idea occurs to me and it may well occur to you as well: We should very much question the competence of the heads of the formations. Having failed to sieze power through war, they could not capture Jalalabad, Khowst, Qandahar. Now they have asked, you know who? The Soviets. One of the heads of the formations asks the Soviets to ask Najibullah to step down and to hand power to them. I let you make your own judgment. They do not talk to me, alleging that he is a Soviet puppet. They do not talk to me, saying he is a supporter of the Soviets. But they beg them and ask them to give them [the mujahidin] the power. They ask, in their words, their Western friends to give them power.

Finally dear brothers, we have not closed the road. The road is closed for robbers. Remove its cause, robbery, and it will be opened. The road should be opened by the people of Shamali themselves because your life and your children's and your business all depend on this road. This road does not belong only to you, I repeat. Let us unite and open this road, which belongs to all the people of Afghanistan, Jalalabad, Lowgar, and so on. You have a responsibility before the people of Afghanistan, which you should fulfill. We are ready to fulfill our duties to you but this time I ask you, anyone, I say that it should not be like the previous time. They asked to be given 10 days. The days passed and the fighting intensified. Fix a specific time for yourselves and for me. Put forward the requests I make.

We are ready for any service. Every village and commander should undertake to see that no gunfire comes from their direction. I am accountable to you and to the people who live in Kabul. You are also responsible. You are as responsible to them as to the Kohdamanis. The Arabs in Shakar Dara and other areas should be ejected, and the Wahhabi sect should not be allowed to preach Wahhabism in mosques. Groups which come from outside Kohdaman, or individuals, should not be allowed to mount subversion in the area. You complained that commanders who are not from Kohdaman are stationed in Qala-e Murad Beg by the government. The area is yours and responsibility also rests with you. Tell them to first liberate the area they come from and you will fulfil your responsibility. Tell them your area is liberated—Mirbachakot, Kalakan and Shakardara. Why did they come to that area?

The transportation of arms and ammunition should not be allowed through Kohdaman to other areas because these arms are good only for killing the children of Afghans, and Afghan is used against Afghan, and Muslim is killed by Muslim. You may say that if arms are prevented from reaching there I will turn against you. I will give you a pledge in writing that even a bullet will not be fired toward you, neither from the air or the ground, not even from artillery: No weapon.

You see on television that the bereaved people go to the doors of the Pakistani Embassy, or they go to the UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] and hand over their demands that they should prevent rockets and murder which are carried out by foreigners who intervene in our country. They also ask that Najibullah lose his patience. You tell me that revenge is not so good as forgiveness. But what do they tell me? For one rocket, reply with 10 or 100 rockets. Please rid me of them.

They are your brothers and your compatriots. Kabul is the capital of your country. When you rose up in Shamali and expelled Britains from the country, first you attacked the Britains in the capital. You liberated your capital. Now, do not raze your capital and do not let people be savagely killed there. There must be no committees by the road side. They must not be near the roads. If a road is blocked and the contents of a vehicle are unloaded, and a driver is killed, then there will again be aircraft, artillery, and rockets. They are fired on you and me.

Opportunity for talks betwee[n] [c]ommanders and government shall be prepared by you. I announce through radio and television that I garuantee that no one will be lost. The world tunes in and the people of Afghanistan will hear it. If a hair of theirs is lost I will be defamed in history. I do not want to defame the policy that I declared: Reconciliation. I do not, God forbid, want to lure people and kill them, as others did in the past. I guarantee that even if we do not reach an agreement, we do not want surrender from them. I do not tell them to lay down their arms. They talk to me as equals, as opponents to force. And, God forbid, I do not want them to come and beg. We will sit and discuss our national problems, and what great responsibility rests on our shoulders in this critical stage in the history of our country before the people of Afghanistan.

This responsibility rests on the shoulders of every one of us, including the commanders. Guarantee this. Tell them to talk to you. It is through you that they shall come here directly. If they want this type of a meeting—or to be in another place. We should sit and discuss things in order to find a solution, not only for the road but for all national issues: solutions for central government, local governments, this or that province, all over the country. They should bring their proposals and opinions and put them forward.

Another issue is that the commanders should give a credible guarantee for the restoration of stability in Shakar Dara, Kalakan, and Mir Bacheh Kowt. They are your own districts and subdistricts—I have many times said this. They are not my representatives. Look what has happpened to my representatives who live in Estalef. You should introduce your own representative, but there must be an administrative unit to work for you and to ensure your contacts with the government, to convey your demands, opinions, and proposals to the government, to convey to government the duties to entrust to them.

You and the commanders should not block the road, and it is being guaranteed that private and government vehicles shall no longer be robbed. Every village situated along the highway shall introduce a representative with whom we will talk should an incident occur. They shall be responsible to us and we should be accountable to them. So we shall solve the problem of why the incident took place in the traditional Jerga manner. When the road is opened, opponent groups should not walk along it with their arms, whether or not they are government-connected. It shall be guaranteed that government offices and administrative units of the villages and district will not be attacked.

These are my views. Which of them is, God forbid, detrimental to you? Which dishonors you? Which is not for your own good? The things which are called defaming, God forbid, will become good by doing these deeds. In response I am ready to carry the weight of the world for your benefit. I am prepared for orders, instructions, and service from you. Orders and instructions shall be given by the people, not by rulers and monarchs. Imagine. Were there not the people, I would be the ruler of jungles, stones, and deserts. That cannot be possible. I consider you people the jewels of this country.

Therefore, when you put a responsibility and a duty on my shoulders, I will try to discharge it in this country's very critical situations and serve you. In return, I request that you join hands and follow the path of Mirmasjidi Khan and Mirdarwish Khan Babaqushqari [names as heard] for the prevention of fratricide, bloodshed, and muslimcide, for the prevention of further destruction of the country, for the prevention of the ruining of our religion and customs and for the safeguarding of our honor and dignity.

Look at the country from the angle of the services rendered by your forefathers. Do not benefit from a grape harvest for 2 or 3 months, and afterwards say that you do not give a damn about it, let happen what may. I put on your shoulders this great responsibility, which is an Islamic and a national responsibility. We are responsible for fulfilling it.

Set up your commission—here or when you leave the hall. Sit on the lawn, or another place will be prepared for you. The commission must be authoritative. We will give you several days. Go and talk to your commanders. I believe that an act cannot be done by others and by messages and that hearing does not equal what you see. So the commanders should come and I will personally enter into business with them. If we reach a settlement, very good, otherwise take them with you and they shall consider it there. If they still want to fight I will leave the judgement for you people to say who is to blame and who is not. However, it is an act of benevolence—fulfill it.

These are my suggestions which I give to you. I apologize profusely for taking so much of your time. Allah help us to succeed in carrying out these local, popular, and national deeds. [indistinct comment from the floor]

The vehicles shall be allowed because of the economic hardship. When the supply of goods is complete, the fighting will be fought by Kabul. Do not do this. There is no difference between the government and private vehicles. Government vehicles bring wheat for people. They bring flour and salt for people and offer them to markets. They give wheat and flour to coupon holders. A teacher just said that there are 30,000 public servants in Kohdaman whom we supply with flour and wheat. This is not by a government vehicle but by a public vehicle. So do not differentiate between them—this line is drawn by the enemy. Please [in Pashto] [indistinct comment from the floor]—I told you all my reasons for my argument.

India

Floods Kill Over 450; Rescue Operations Underway

BK2507160789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Over 450 people have lost their lives in torrential rains and floods during the last few days disrupting normal life in several parts of the country. Heavy rains have been lashing parts of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat, and Uttar Pradesh, creating flash floods.

In Maharashtra alone, more than 200 lives were lost. The worst affected districts are Bhir and Nander in the Marathwada region and reports say that about 90 people died in Raigadh District, 15 in Bhir, 38 in Pune, and 13 in Osmanabad. Forty-three bodies have been recovered

from the swollen Bindusa River in Bhir town and its surrounding areas. Reports of deaths have also come in from Aurangabad, Buldhana, Nanded, Jalna, and Parbhani districts.

Meanwhile, relief and rescue operations were launched on a war-footing today. Naval and Air Force helicopters today airdropped essential items to the marooned people. The Army is also assisting in the relief operations. The situation in Bombay is slowly improving. [passage omitted]

In Andhra Pradesh, the death toll has gone up to 115 with 4 more deaths reported from Krishna District. However, the overall situation is improving in the state barring Nizamabad District where some villages are still flooded. Relief and rescue operations are on in the affected districts. [passage omitted]

The incessant rains and flash floods have taken a toll of 26 people in Orissa, 37 in Uttar Pradesh, 59 in Kerala, 10 in Tamil Nadu, 4 in Karnataka, and 5 in Gujarat.

The prime minister has expressed deep distress and sorrow at the loss of life and property in flood havoc in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and Karnataka. He has asked the authorities to take all steps to rescue the people in the marooned areas and provide relief to the flood victims. Mr Rajiv Gandhi has sanctioned 40 lakh rupees from the prime minister's relief fund for the families of the flood victims. Ten thousand rupees each will be given to the families of those killed in the floods.

Minister Promises Inquiry Into Bofors Gun Deal

BK2507163089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, has said that the investigations done so far do not indicate that any India or Indian legal entities were among the recipients of the winding-up charges paid by the [Swedish company] Bofors in the gun deal. Intervening in the resumed debate on the relevant paragraphs of the CAG [comptroller and auditor general] report in both houses of parliament, the minister disclosed that the Swiss authorities in a communication on the 28th of June have declined to extend legal assistance in the investigations into the secret bank accounts of the company alleged to have received the payments. Mr Chidambaram assured the members that the matter is being examined by legal experts to find a way to obtain legal assistance from the Swiss authorities, since India had signed the memorandum of understanding in this regard.

Refuting the charge that the government has not pursued the investigations seriously, Mr Chidambaram asserted that government will pursue the inquiry with determination and sincerity. The minister disclosed that the Swiss authorities have refused to extend the legal assistance in the investigation to Sweden also. Though Sweden has closed the investigation, India will pursue the inquiry further. He also disclosed that the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] has been able to gather a lot of information and material during its investigation, conducted with patience in the face of great difficulties. These relate to the documents published in the daily HINDU. CBI officials found out that the agreements between Bofors and its agents were terminated after the Indian Government's insistence on elimination of middlemen in the gun deal. Mr Chidambaram said the investigations also proved that the documents furnished by [opposition leader] Mr Jethmalani was not genuine.

During the resumed debate in both houses of Parliament on CAG report, ruling party members maintained that the comptroller and auditor general had gone beyond their jurisdiction. They said that the 155-mm gun was selected by the defense experts after a thorough evaluation. A few members argued that the CAG report did not make any conclusive charge against anyone and the opposition reaction is based on presumptions and assumptions.

An opposition member said that certain points raised by CAG in the report led to an element of suspicion in the minds of the people. He wanted the government to clarify the points raised in the report.

Some ruling party members expressed surprise that the report picked up the negotiating committee on the deal and the then Army chief for indictment, and thereby questioned their judgment and patriotism.

The debate will continue.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Winds Up Visit

Meets With Gandhi 25 Jul

BK2507155789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] The Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today. They discussed matters concerning SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation].

Completes Talks With Leaders

BK2507154289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan completed his talks with Indian leaders on the future of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] in New Delhi today. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the Pakistani foreign minister informed his Indian counterpart that Sri Lanka has expressed its firm commitment to the principles of

the regional organization, but Colombo has not given any firm assurance whether it will take part in the SAARC ministerial council meeting to be convened at a later date.

Before his departure from New Delhi, Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan also met with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Iran

Deputy Sets Out Conditions for Resumed U.S. Ties

LD2607081689 Tehran IRNA in English 0645 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—A Majlis deputy has refuted a report that Iranian and American officials recently held secret talks on normalization of relations.

But the deputy from Tehran said resumption of Iran-U.S. ties—on Iran's terms—was not impossible.

Mohammad Reza Bahonar, a deputy from Tehran, told the English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES that the report in the Kuwaiti daily AL-SIYASAH was a "pack of lies."

"It does not mean that there is no possibility for resumption of Iran-U.S. ties at all but it will not be the same as it used to be in the previous regime in Iran, " said the Majlis deputy.

He said Iran's conditions, including non-interference in internal affairs and respect for mutual interests, must be met before "even a single step" is taken towards normalization.

"Right now we do not see such a sign so the question of talks with the U.S. does not even exist," Bahonar said.

Washington broke off relations in April 1980, six months after revolutionary students took over the American Embassy in Tehran.

The only official contact between the two countries since has been the Iran-U.S. tribunal at the Hague which was set up to settle financial claims and counterclaims.

Iran Air Wants All Indemnities for Airbus

LD2507154489 Tehran IRNA in English 1455 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 25, IRNA—Washington should pay all indemnities for the downed Iranian Airbus to the airlines of the Islamic Republic or Iran, Iran Air demanded in a statement here today.

The statement said since Iran Air is a commercial company and functions under international trade regulations, the U.S. should pay all the compensations to it and the families of the martyrs of the Flight 650 according to the Geneva, Tokyo and Chicago conventions.

The Airbus was shot down by two standard missiles fired by the U.S. advanced frigate Vincennes over the Persian Gulf as it was on a regular flight from Bandar Abbas to Dubayy on July 3, 1988. All 290 passengers and crew members were killed.

The U.S. Government earlier announced that it would pay $100,000 to $250,000 to each victim. However, head of the Civil Aviation Organization (CAO) Mohammad Nabi Habibi said last week that Iran would not accept the compensations unless through a judicial condemnation of the culprit.

Rafsanjani Seen As 'Sure Winner' in Election

LD2607094489 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, seen as the sure winner of Friday's presidential election was among the staunch supporters of the movement launched by the late Imam Khomeyni in the 1960s against the former regime.

Because of his anti-shah lectures in various cities he was arrested five times and was sentenced to between 40 days and three years.

After the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution he became a member of the Revolutionary Council, and was put in charge of the Interior Ministry for some time.

He then ran for parliament and won a seat from Tehran and has been chosen by deputies as the speaker every year since 1980.

He is also the acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces.

Along with his close allies, martyrs Mohammad Javad Bahonar and Mohammad Hoseyn Beheshti, and leader Ayotallah 'Ali Khamene'i he was co-founder of the now defunct Islamic Republic Party.

Rafsanjani was born into a religious family on August 25, 1934 in a remote village in Rafsajnan, Kerman Province.

He helped his father in farming until he was sent off to Qom where he studied theology for 16 years, including under the imam in the advanced stages.

In Qom he lived in a house opposite to the residence of the late imam and published an Islamic magazine "SHI'A IDEOLOGY" there with the late Mohammad Javad Bahonar.

He also wrote a book on the 19th century politician Mirza Taqi Khan, better known as Amir Kabir, who is credited for modernizing Iran's state system.

Ahmad Khomeyni Message on Presidential Election
LD2607112889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GTM 26 Jul 89

[Message issued by Hojjat ol-Eslam Val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni on eve of presidential elections]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Once again the great and honest nation of Iran is exposed to a great divine political test—the referendum on the Constitution and the election of a president—even though it has been proven to friend and foe alike that the Islamic revolution and the sacred path of his holiness the imam—may God be satisfied with his deeds—was a cloud of blessing, quenching the thirst of hearts, while rejuvenating the land of thoughts and ideas of the enthusiasts. [passage omitted]

It is natural that a nation such as ours needs no reminder or exhortation. But duty dictates that I should say that the elections before us are very important. They will surely create a bond between the past history of the revolution and Islamic movement and the sacred aims and aspirations of his holiness the imam, taking them right into the future, safeguarding the dynamic and ever-searching nature of such aims, causing the fragrant buds of freedom and the true mission of spiritual values to flower. There is no doubt that these elections will unfold a new chapter in judgments and appraisals of our friends and foes about the stability and survival of the Islamic revolution.

After the sad and agonising demise of the dear imam—may his soul be in God's paradise—the world was anxious to watch the renewed experience of the great Iranian nation and the followers of the imam's path to assess their loves, sacrifices, and convictions; the world was anxious to open a new book on the people's practical memories, to put a question mark against each single event during the revolution, seeing whether the people today are the same and whether the objectives and aspirations are the same original and developed ones, or whether a new event has taken place. The participation of tens of millions of people in the mourning ceremonies as well as sessions to commemorate the death of his eminence the imam was, in fact, a new referendum on the acceptability of the sovereignty of Islam; it was a practical yes vote for the Islamic Republic.

Most certainly, just as the imam, during his fruitful life, was happy on 1 April 1979, his immaculate soul was equally happy on account of the presence of the people on the glorious scenes of memorial and funeral processions. God will reward such sincerity.

However, at this juncture the country and the Islamic revolution need yet another presence and another epic-making event, in which the fact of the amendments to the constitution and the presidency of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be determined.

I am certain that if the dear imam were to be among us, he would have been the first person, as always, to go to the ballot box at the first hour of voting, walking steady and with an angelic face to vote for both the amendments to the Constitution and the presidency of the Islamic Republic. But what can we do? This year the beautiful phrase and the sacred name of Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni cannot be seen on the ballot papers.

Yet, who is he who may not know that in the world of truthfulness and spirituality all the positive ballot papers of the dear and noble people of Iran are decorated with the immaculate and immortal seal of Ruhollah; and they will remain so.

God willing, on 28 July the dear people will swarm to the ballot boxes with steady strides as deputed by their imam and guide. In so doing they will gladden the hearts of friends and send the enemies to the dust of dismay.

God's peace and blessings on you.

[Signed] Ahmad Khomeyni, 26 July, 1989.

Presidential Candidate Sheybani's Address
LD2507150189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0932 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Campaign address by presidential candidate 'Abbas Sheybani; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Greetings to the spirit of the imam of the ummah and the nation's martyrs. As a presidential candidate, I will repeat some points because not everyone has a television and because those with televisions may have experienced a power cut at the time. I apologise for the repetition.

I will give a brief summary of my life. I was born in a middle-class family in Tehran. My family roots go back to Kashan and, it is suggested in history, to Bani-Sheyban. [passage omitted]

As for my programs for the presidency. One of the most important programs is the plan for agriculture. I will strive toward self-sufficiency, taking full advantage of our country's soil and water, and the creation of facilities in villages. Things must be such that the villager does not have to come to town in order to fulfill his needs.

Universities must be expanded with popular resources. Faithful and educated lecturers who are affiliated with neither the East nor the West must be encouraged and

reassured that their efforts in advancing science and the level of knowledge will be valued by the nation and by students. The imam of the ummah, may his dust be sanctified, noted the importance of universities in his politico-devotional will.

In the area of health and medicine, I have it in mind to obtain the resources necessary for medicine and health and to put them at the disposal of the faithful and selfless people. By encouraging doctors and providing them with resources to serve deprived regions, I will do away with the medical problems of villages.

In international affairs, just as the dear imam stated, the political line of neither East nor West will continue. Of course, it is worth mentioning that we will have good relations with countries which have good relations with us. But the Great Satan [words indistinct], as long as they overtly and covertly conspire against the Islamic Republic, must not expect any good will whatsoever from us.

Israel, which is basically a usurping country, has shown its enmity toward Islam by killing the people of Palestine and Lebanon. South Africa will have a similar position as long as its people do not control their own destiny.

With respect to workers, by means of the expansion of housing cooperatives with their own and the government's assistance, I will, God willing, solve their housing problem. Of course—I said this in a television interview as well—even if all resources are mobilized, the housing problem will not be resolved quickly. It requires time and, God willing, in view of the fact that one of the basic problems of the man in the street is the problem of housing, we will be able to solve that too.

With the expansion of domestic industries, following which peripheral industries will be cultivated and with the use of those resources which as a result of unemployment are having their abilities wasted, I will bring about the advancement of industries and do away with the damage and corruption arising from unemployment.

God willing, I will declare the details of the program after being sworn into the presidency by the leader.

In conclusion, I ask various political groups to subject their previous behavior to examination and critical appraisal. And now that the nation is standing firm in the face of the superpowers, let them not separate their ranks from the people. Let them return to the arms of the nation and be of service so that they may make up for their past deeds. [passage omitted] They will be able to clean their slate with the services that they perform.

I believe that in performing those programs, action is needed more than words and I must fulfill the given promises. I will strive to replace connections with clear criteria, and to prevent any injustice toward the deprived. Of course, I have designated certain criteria for employment.

However When I reviewed those criteria, I realized that such criteria cannot be applied to anyone. Therefore I am forced to announce those criteria later, giving each of them a mark; anyone who gains a higher mark will benefit from such criteria.

One point which is worthy of mention is the fact that some people have said that I intend to abandon the race for the sake of Mr Hashemi, my sincere friend and former fellow prisoner, as well as a fellow member of the Revolutionary Council and the government of that council, and member of the Majlis for (?two) terms. This is not in anyway true. I ask those who have spread such rumors to deny these remarks in an appropriate manner. For the sake of emphasis, I say once again that I chose my first deputy a whole ago, asking him to choose his cabinet members, so as to inform the dear nation about it later.

There are some points that I consider as important, and I thought to mention them at the end of my remarks. One of these concerns power cuts and the problem of electricity. With the facilities ratified by the Majlis, God willing, we will not have any electricity power cuts in 3 or 4 years. That way, perhaps when I become a candidate for the second time, my television broadcasts will be received by everyone.

Another issue is that of transport, which is a fundamental issue. Right now people have to constantly wait in queues, for instance at airports. This problem has been a painful one for me. I will strive to free the people from this problem, through expansion of transport facilities, in the air, on land, and at sea.

I have brought with me some excerpts from His Holiness the imam's politico-religious will. I will recite them, as they form the working titles for my programs, and I will try to act within their frameworks.

The imam graciously said: this great revolution which cut off the hands of world devourers and tyrants from the great Iran attained victory through divine approval. One point I would like to mention is that in view of the fact that since the beginning of the struggles to this day, the ladies have been active alongside the gentlemen. What I have already said applies to both groups. I also thought that I should perhaps select some women ministers. However, I have not reached a definte decision yet. God willing, later on, through future consultations and on the basis of approved criteria, if I should be able to find a woman who is suitable for occupying a ministerial seat in the Islamic republic, then I will introduce her. [passage omitted]

I urge the government employees to strive to fulfill their duties for the comfort of the people. Of course, I and the government will make every endeavor to supply people's basic needs at a suitable price, a price which can be afforded with these salaries, so as to get rid of all shortages. [passage omitted]

I call on all people to be present on the scene. Moreover, they should bear in mind the fact that religion and politics are in line with each other, just as the imam stated. With regard to political propoganda, I have told friends and colleagues that I do not want posters, placards, and such things on any account, because I think that it is better to use the papers which may be used for posters, etcetera, for students' books and notebooks. But I request from all—those who know me and who will be voting for me—and those who do not know me, should ask those who do and should then act upon what they consider is in the best interest of the country. That is, they should vote for me.

Another problem which was stated by the imam was that the universities and the dear productive youth should get all the more closer and strengthen the pact of friendship and understanding with the clergymen and students of Islamic theology and school of thought. This is a point which I have considered on many occasions. For instance, I remember when we were studying at the university, which had 15,000 students, the number of those who performed prayers was very small. And we had to search for a corner or niche. The technical college had a small room where it was possible to go and pray or stage other religious programs.

Another issue stated by the imam included those plans which, by all accounts, left a great impact on countries, including our dear country, and whose effects have remained, to a great extent, as the alienation of the colonized countries from their own identities and as their fascination with East and West. The imam emphasized this issue and we have to pay a lot of attention to it and to try, if we can, to create a group of oppressed countries which will be able to stand on their own feet and to solve their own economic, social, and political problems. This will greatly help the world movement of Islam. The imam graciously has stated that, among their great plots, just as has been repeatedly mentioned and just as has been reminded, is the control of centers of learning and training, especially the universities. [passage omitted].

The imam also emphasized: in appointing the president and the deputies of the Majlis, consult the committed, educated, and informed classes. [passage omitted]

I should mention something at this point. If we are to remove a tent and its main pole in order that we may erect another, this is not in the interest of the country. The reason why I have placed myself opposite our dear brother, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, as a presidential candidate, was that His Excellency has administered the Islamic Consultative Majlis very well during these three terms and his absence from the Majlis would be a loss to the Majlis, whereas my presence in the Executive branch would be a help. I could both obtain assistance from His Excellency and also benefit from his guidances. This will not be the case if we have the reverse situation.

The imam has also stated: you should know that if the president and the deputies of the Majlis are deserving and committed to Islam and sympathetic to the country and nation, many of the problems would not arise; and if there are any problems, they will be solved. With regard to the judicial issue—since this pertained to the leader—I did not give any opinions, - but I believe that a number of good judicial people, trained in the judicial field, should be selected to implement Islamic laws. I declare, even right now, that the problems of law and judgements, Islamic judgements, which are very sensitive, would not be solved all that soon. Of course, I have hopes that the judicial officials of the country will set about trying to eliminate the defects, as soon as possible and with the existing facilities. [passage omitted]

A point about which I myself have criticisms relates to the Interior Ministry. And here the imam has stated: I advise the ministers of state in the future to take care when selecting governors. They should select religiously committed, able, and wise persons who get on with people so that tranquillity would prevail all the more in the country. [passage omitted]

Biography of 'Abbas Sheybani Reported

LD2607094389 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 26 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—'Abbas Sheybani who will compete against Majlis speaker Rafsanjani in the presidential election on Friday, served 13 years in prison for his opposition activities against the shah. Sheybani was among the vanguards of the student movement in the universities in the 1940s for which he was expelled and jailed nine times.

In 1956 he was expelled from university and arrested for taking part in a demonstration in support of Cairo's confrontation with Israel for which he was thanked by the late Egyptian President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir.

After the revolution, the 58-year-old doctor became a member of the revolutionary council and also served as agriculture minister. He won a seat from Tehran in the 1980 elections for the Majlis.

He was the contender in the second presidential election in 1981 and won the second largest number of votes among four candidates.

One of his longest prison terms was for six years when he was arrested during wide opposition to the shah's so-called land reform program in 1962.

After the revolution on the suggestion of the late martyr Ayatollah Mohammad Hoseyni Beheshti and others he made preparations for the formation of the Islamic Republic Party of which he became a Central Council and Executive Council member.

The party was disbanded in 1986.

He has served three terms in parliament as Tehran deputy and held other posts including chancellor of Tehran University, and head of the Medical Disciplinary Board.

Elections HQ Statement on Voting, Identification

LD2607123589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] The country's elections headquarters has issued a statement announcing that for the fifth presidential elections and the referendum on the reappraisal of the Constitution it is not necessary that people vote in their place of residence or place of birth. So anyone who is eligible to vote may go to any of the polling stations throughout the country, and cast his vote. However, as it is necessary to carry one's birth certificate and to present it to the polling station officers for the purpose of participation in the presidential elections and the constitutional referendum, we would like to remind all our compatriots who intend to travel to carry their birth certificates with them.

The Interior Ministry's elections headquarters has also stated that, following agreement reached with the commander in chief of the headquarters, those members of the male population born between March 1959 and March 1966 who have not yet been able to change their old birth certificates will be able to participate in the elections and the referendum by presenting their old birth certificates. In addition, compatriots living abroad may go to polling stations situated in the Islamic Republic of Iran's diplomatic legations, present their passports and cast their votes.

Prime Minister Urges 'Massive' Election Turnout

LD2607132989 Tehran IRNA in English 1258 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi Wednesday called for a massive turnout in the presidential elections and a referendum on constitutional amendments to be held simultaneously on Friday.

"The government of the Islamic Republic considers this (people's turnout) as a divine and national duty and will mobilize all its capabilities for better holding of them," Musavi said after a cabinet session here.

The premier pointed out "the constitutional amendments made by a board appointed by the late Imam Khomeyni will enhance the efficiency of the holy system of the Islamic Republic to go ahead and solve problems better than ever before."

The cabinet also heard a report by Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani on a recently-concluded visit to Moscow of an Iranian delegation which inked a draft agreement with Soviet officials on export of 3 billion cubic meters of Iranian natural gas to the Soviet Union annually.

Iravani also briefed the cabinet on other agreements with Moscow on the transit of Iranian natural gas to Europe via Soviet territory and on the industrial projects to be implemented in Iran with Soviet cooperation before the Islamic Republic started its gas exports to the Soviet Union.

Commentary Urges People To Vote

NC2607083789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Untitled Central News Unit research group commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, on 28 July, the revolutionary Muslim Iranian nation, which has repeatedly affirmed and supported the Islamic revolution and its ideals on numerous occasions, will once again display its steadfastness in striving for the objectives of the Islamic Republic's system. [passage omitted]

The people of Iran will be confronted with making two choices: One is to elect the future president and the other will be to vote for the amendments incorporated in the Constitution. [passage omitted]

Thus, the Iranian people will elect an individual with greater suitability and capability for accepting the responsibility of a president. Given the changes wrought in the Constitution and that the addendum to the Constitution and revisions were disseminated after the conclusion of the deliberations of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution and after the council members explained these amendments in interviews, the Iranian nation is now fully aware of the changes on which it will now express its opinion. [passage omitted]

The most important of the amendments is the axis of centralization of management in the executive by abolishing the office of prime minister and delegating his powers to the President. Other important changes are delegating the powers of the head of the executive, the responsibility for the plan and budget affairs, and the administrative and recruitment affairs of the country and the dismissal of ministers and appointment of deputies and special representatives for the president. [passage omitted]

It is thus hoped that with the people's approval of the constitutional amendments, the election of a new president, and the establishment of a capable and strong government, difficulties and bottlenecks will be eliminated and better conditions conducive to implementing the objectives incorporated in the Constitution will be created.

Daily Comments on Presidential Elections
LD2607062389 Tehran IRNA in English 0600 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—The morning daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in an editorial Wednesday commented on the Friday presidential election and the mission that the would-be president must carry out and problems that he has to tackle.

One of the immediate issues facing the future president, it said, is forming of cabinet. Now at the post-war period all resources must be utilized to remove shortcomings in executive and administrative system of the country. Freed from problems caused by the imposed war, a proper structure can be laid in this respect, one which would be attentive to the public, it added.

As for economy, the whole system must be responsive to the public needs—a move which it said calls for a serious and fundamental change in related sectors.

The president is in great need of popular support. The changes made in the Constitution which is to go on referendum on Friday, grants him necessary power and the public support he is sure to enjoy. These two factors will enable him to tackle and solve the country's issues, concluded the article.

TEHRAN TIMES on Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Plan
NC2507111889 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES (International Weekly) in English 20 Jul 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Spotlight on Rafsanjani's Plan To Boost Economy"]

[Text] Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, one of the two candidates in the upcoming presidential election, in an interview with the Persian daily, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI has shed light on a number of significant questions related to his political and economic plans for the future.

On his economic plans he said he very much will try to relieve the government of "unnecessary burdens and responsibilities" that people themselves are capable to shouldering. He was obviously referring to the government's big hand in trade. But he said enough measures will be taken to prevent what he termed "accumulation of wealth in any particular sector of the society."

Given these positive views Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani entertains it is expected that his presidency will usher in fundamental economic reforms and policies essential to economic reconstruction within the framework of a medium-term program.

Uncoordinated economic plans in the past decade have had relatively negative outcomes, the worst having an acutely adverse impact on two areas: labor and productivity. It is in these areas, their cultural aspect in particular, that we have not been able to answer to the needs of the society in terms of our high population growth.

Naturally one of the major problems to be concerned with, which in itself is a result of the past policies, is the existence of a big sum of cash in the hands of the private sector. Given an atmosphere of doubt and uncertainty which is surrounding the economic environment at the moment, it cannot be expected that the public participate in the economic plans either at the macro or micro levels. This will certainly hamper the nation's industrial growth and advancement.

In the same interview Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed hope that more opportunities will be open in the production sector to people and that even managerial responsibilities of many factories now under the government control will be handed over to people. It is only natural that when enough incentives for legitimate profit are not offered or the choice of commodity to be produced is not left to people, they will not invest in any project. Of course, it has to be remembered that capital by itself should not become a decisive parameter effecting political decisions, or in another words, capital should not become an all-powerful priority or factor.

A healthy circulation of capital without crucial bearing on political decisions, is an effective theory which can be translated to an ease-moving executive mechanism.

What can be said about the current economic problems is that they are complex but solvable. Hashemi-Rafsanjani seems to be the right man with the capability to overcome the existing problems and create suitable circumstances for an increase in production and the Gross National Product. His choice of cabinet will of course play a crucial role in putting him on the right track for the Herculean job he has ahead.

Paper Calls for Greater Redistribution of Wealth
LD2307111789 Tehran IRNA in English 0804 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 23, IRNA—The next Iranian president must squarely face the question of redistribution of wealth to maintain public confidence, a daily paper commented Sunday.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL said such a task would not be possible without government intervention in the form of "principled, disciplined guidance" which has been missing in past years.

The paper cited statistics showing 40 percent or 20 million of the Iranian population in control of less than 3 percent of the nation's wealth while the 500,000 elite—the top one percent—in control of more than 21 percent.

If, as widely expected, Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani is voted president in the July 28 elections the paper believed his most important task would be to improve economic opportunities.

"To maintain...faith and build public confidence his greatest challenge will not be the 'neither East nor West' balancing act," the paper said.

"If the nation is to stand behind his political leadership, maintaining the ideals of the revolution and vision of the Imam (Khomeyni), they must be empowered by a greater sense of economic opportunity."

KAYHAN said such an opportunity could not be created without government intervention but stressed that this should not be mistaken with "the flabby, confused government control of the last years."

"What we have in mind is government control that guides, advises and chastens in the spirit of the nation's well being. Principled guidance that the poor will applaud and the finaglers will fear."

The editorial acknowledged that the dilemma of redistribution of wealth was not unique to Iran.

"But (neither South Korea, the USSR or the United States) staged an Islamic revolution calling for an equal distribution of opportunities and wealth," it added.

Satellite Station Project Completed in Khorasan

NC2207083689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] With the implementation of the satellite station project and the commissioning of the television station in Arzaneh District in Khorasan Province on the occasion of 'Id-e Ghadir-e Khom, another group of villages in the Torbat'e Jam border area can now receive the television programs of the first network of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Central News Unit reports that with the commissioning of this unit and the installation of new antenna, the residents of villages in the Faruj District of Khorasan Province can also watch the programs of the second network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Channel 6.

Besharati on Nonaligned Movement, Iraq, UK

LD2507202489 Tehran IRNA in English 1731 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Madrid, July 25, IRNA—A senior Iranian official Tuesday said the Islamic Republic of Iran will send a delegation including "highest level authorities" to the next non-aligned summit meet to be held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia in September.

First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati also told IRNA in an interview here that the Belgrade summit will be important for a number of reasons. First, he said, the heads of the non-aligned states are to consider a revision of movement's primary principles.

Furthermore, he noted, the summit is to take among others the issues of the Far East, the Middle East, the East-West relations, the occupied Palestine, apartheid, Namibia, as well as the general strategy of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Besharati is here on his way back to Iran from Nicaragua where he headed a delegation to attend the celebrations marking the 10th anniversary of the victory of the Nicaraguan revolution.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the deputy foreign minister blamed Iraq for the failure to implement the UN Security Council Resolution 598 although one year passed since its official acceptance by Iran on July 18.

"The acceptance of the resolution came at a time that all states were demanding its implementation and it was believed that they would take a coordinated stance to this end, but as we are approaching the second anniversary of the ceasefire no progress has been made for its execution," Besharati regretted.

The UN-sponsored ceasefire went into effect on August 20 last year and five days later the foreign ministers of the two countries began peace talks under direct supervision of the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Reiterating Iran's strong belief in peace and security for the region, he said reconstruction of Abadan refinery and many other installations which used to be under the range of enemy fire has convinced the world that "we want peace."

He however regretted that four rounds of peace talks with Iraq have produced no important results. Besharati praised the UN chief for its efforts but said he did not possess necessary levers to pressure the Baghdad regime to respect its commitments.

On severance of relations with Britain, he said he believed ties could normalise if London stopped its support for Salman Rushdie, the author of the blasphemous novel 'The Satanic Verses.'

"As we have repeatedly announced we don't see any problem with normalisation of ties if Britain discontinues its support for this issue (Rushdie affair)."

Besharati said the issue which had caused rupture of ties between the two countries was ideological and regretted that London supported a man who had injured sentiments of over one billion world Muslims.

UNIIMOG Commander Inspects Cease-fire Lines

LD2507110189 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, July 25, IRNA—Commander of the U.N. Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) General Slavko Jovic inspected ceasefire lines along the southern borders with Iraq Sunday.

Gen. Jovic also discussed the activities of the UNIIMOG force in the southern region and related issues in a meeting Sunday night with UNIIMOG commanders and officers stationed in the region.

He voiced satisfaction with the present situation along the ceasefire lines in the south and thanked Iranian military commanders for their "excellent cooperation" with U.N. troops.

During his tour Gen. Jovic was accompanied by Commander of UNIIMOG in Iran Gen. James Kelley.

Paper Urges United Nations Pressure on Iraq

LD0607080489 Tehran IRNA in English 0655 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 6, IRNA—An Iranian daily Thursday suggested that new procedures should be sought for the execution of Resolution 598 to bring the Iraq-Iran war to a final conclusion.

The peace talks should be re-evaluated in view of "Baghdad's continued rejection" of U.N. secretary general's 4-point plan for the implementation of the resolution, the daily said.

"The U.N. should use all levers for the full and precise implementation of the resolution," said KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in its editorial.

The daily also said with "highly improved" Tehran-Moscow ties, the Soviet Union was expected to pressure other fellow Security Council members to force Baghdad to abide by the U.N. resolution.

It added that the withdrawal of Iraqi forces would result in a successful resumption of the peace talks.

More than 2,600 sq kms of Iranian territory are still occupied by Iraq almost a year after the implementation of ceasefire on August 20, 1988.

Despite U.N. secretary general's efforts, Iraq was still reluctant to cooperate with him, it said.

Official on Progress on Resolution 598

NC1807155389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0620 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Interview with Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani, deputy foreign minister for international affairs, by unidentified correspondent of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tehran on the "Voice of the Front" feature—date not given, recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] In view of the fact that today it has been a year since the Islamic Republic of Iran accepted Resolution 598, could you tell us what stances Iran and Iraq took following the cease-fire? Also, how are the two parties adhering to international commitments?

[Lavasani] [passage omitted] I wish to give detailed explanations, which I hope will be useful, to our listeners.

A year ago today the Islamic Republic of Iran accepted Resolution 598. In view of the fact that Iraq had already accepted it, the resolution should have been implemented immediately after Iran's acceptance. However, by trying to plant doubts and by reneging on the conditions of the cease-fire's acceptance, Iraq created obstacles for the resolution's implementation. It embarked on disseminating lies in the initial stages. These proved the truth of its pretensions to peace by its unilateral acceptance of the cease-fire. [passage omitted]

On the 1975 accord and border issues, I feel it necessary to mention some points which need to be pondered carefully. First of all, the 1975 accord still holds because border accords cannot be declared null and void unilaterally. Second, the borders are clearly demarcated on land and sea. The Thalweg line is the border in the Arvand River for both countries. Third, according to the 1975 accord, the dredging of the Arvand River should take place under the aegis of the joint Iran-Iraq cooperation office and under the same regulations as in the past. Fourth, this can only take place after the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Iranian territory which is still under aggressive Iraqi forces' occupation and in conformity with the clear stipulations of the 1975 accord.

Dredging cannot take place unless these regulations are observed; we cannot go beyond the confines of the accord, despite Iraqi insistence that the dredging should begin before the withdrawal and within the framework of the cease-fire. I reiterate that the dredging will only take place under the regulations in the accord and at the proper time.

Sixth, [as heard] Iraq's expansionist desires will be strongly resisted by us whether on our own soil or on neighboring countries' soil, given Iraq has border disputes with most of its neighboring countries. It is possible that it may occur to Iraq that it should be aggressive

toward other countries' territory. Our policy is based on the principle that the countries' borders should be safeguarded on the basis of the regulations formulated.

Seventh, Iraq wants to use the pretext of POW's and exploit the humanitarian aspect of this issue so that it can try to juggle the sequence of the resolution's clauses and destroy its cohesion and credibility. Our people are aware of the importance of adhering to the resolution and our reasoning on the priority of implementing the first clause. They are aware of facts. If we do not insist on Article I of the Resolution 598 which is about withdrawal, and if we succumb to Iraqi pressure on exchange of POW's, the resolution will be dismantled and the withdrawal will never take place. In this way, God forbid, it is possible the exchange of POW's may never take place. Therefore, in view of a correct assessment of facts, we hope saner counsels will prevail and priorities be considered. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Now that it has been 1 year since Iran accepted Resolution 598, the international organizations and associations which are concerned with legal issues must certainly have observed this and should have displayed some sort of reaction to the resolution's not being implemented. Please tell us about the interntional reaction in principle, to the Iraqi regime's obstruction.

[Lavasani] Of international organizations, we can specifically name the Nonaligned Movement, which in the past 3 years has been headed by Mr Mugabe of Zimbabwe, who correctly comprehends our regional problems. [passage omitted]

Another international organiztion is the Security Council, and the secretary general is in charge of convening the peace talks. He himself admits that the withdrawal has not materialized even a year after the cease-fire's acceptance, and this is a weakness on the part of the UN secretary general and Security Council on their Resolution 598 to which they admit. We hope that in view of the UN secretary general's correct understanding he will give an accurate and realistic report to the security council so that the latter will be forced to take a stand.

The Islamic Conference Organization will hold a summit in the next 6 months. If, God forbid, the resolution has not been implemented because of the Iraqis' hindrance, we will seriously present the issue at the conference's summit.

Of course the Foreign Ministry has been active in this regard and has been keeping the countries informed at various junctures on the trend of the talks and their slow pace. Dr Velayati is going to write letters to all foreign ministers so that they may be informed of developments in this regard.

[Correspondent] In conclusion, Mr Lavasani, our listeners await further reports on the progress of the peace talks. I will ask you in your capacity of the deputy foreign minister for international affairs—when will the next round of peace talks be held and what is your analysis or forecast for them?

[Lavasani] The announcement for the next date for the peace talks is up to the UN secretary general who will set a date for the sixth round, which he usually does with the concurrence of both sides my personal speculation is that I believe at the nonaligned session to be held at Belgrade where the UN secretary general will also be present, he will make some effort in this regard. In view of our semi-official information, prior to convening the regular session of the United Nations in September, the UN special emissary will either visit Iran and Iraq or the experts will have a bipartite session with the UN secretary general.

In any case, these will create the conditions for a tripartite session attended by the UN secretary general, Iran, and Iraq. In short, the date for the talks will come from the UN secretary general and the concurrence of the two sides.

We can predict that Iraq, which has reneged from the second part of the first clause on various pretexts, as the world has seen and understood, will continue to try to wriggle out of the resolution. All kinds of plans and suggestions which the secretary general has presented until now have been completely accepted by us, but Iraq, which has expansionist designs and could not attain them in the war, is now resorting to obstructionism and hindering the implementation of the resolution in an attempt to stall for time.

However, as I said, we and our people will stand steadfast, and Iraq will not be able to take any opportunity for unfair advantage in any way, God willing. [Correspondent] Thank you very much. [passage omitted]

TEHRAN TIMES Castigates 'Iraqi Obduracy'

NC2507115289 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 19 Jul 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Iraq Can Be Had Through Its Own Tactics"]

[Text] Words are words only and one has to get behind the meaning contained in them if they have to be of any use at all. And this applies most aptly and topically to what is going on over the question of the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, which was agreed to by Iran a year ago to date. Iran took the words for what they were worth and expected that the resolution would be implemented as given. But Iraq has been able to quibble adroitly with words to avoid implementation. So the resolution continues to meander without result.

Iraq has always countered any attempt to have the terms of the resolution translated into reality by bringing up irrelevant legalistic issues of one kind and another. There is only one way to stop this endlessly tortuous process, which perhaps is of more advantage to Iraq than to Iran, and that is to launch all out efforts to determine really what it is that bogs down efforts to have the Resolution 598 implemented. It is a matter of prestige for the U.N. Security Council too and the signatories to this resolution will find it worth their while to coordinate efforts to work out this puzzle and have it settled once and for all.

A no-war, no-peace situation which is the consequence of these dilatory negotiations on the resolution, is not something Iran wants. But it is in our view not that much of a hard nut to crack. On the whole what the Iraqis presume to want from the resolution is what Iran too wants, otherwise the two sides could not have agreed in the first place. Why then the delay? Why is Iraq apparently happy with this no-war, no-peace status which they seem to want to keep afloat by putting off implementation? Now beyond doubt it can be said Iraq was not sincere in its claim.

In a nutshell, it would seem that the Iraqi side is getting the better of the situation taking advantage of Iran's relations with the outside world to equip themselves better and get what they failed to get from a prolonged war. If Iraq is in a position to use this situation in its own interest, Iran should surely be wise to the tactic and change course to suit its own interests.

For Iran, the wisest course to follow now in the face of Iraqi intrasigence is to assume that the implementation of Resolution 598 will probably take a very long time, or may never happen, and then chalk out its own policies for defense and reconstruction on that basis. In this way Iran surely would be doing well to take advantage of a prolonged ceasefire.

Yet, there is no question of giving in to Iraqi obduracy and Iran should try to turn the tide both in negotiations and in future policies to make it far less comfortable for Iraq to carry on as they are. Let us try and promote a situation which will make the Iraqis worry and not us. How this can be done is up to the political pundits of the country to decide. What is of most concern is the time and energy being wasted in this lagging situation. Let us get ahead with the implementation of Resolution 598, and let us get ahead with living our lives in the most resourceful ways available to us.

Dailies on 'No Peace, No War' Status With Iraq

LD2007101989 Tehran IRNA in English 0915 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 29, IRNA—The morning daily ABRAR Thursday said Iran could undermine Iraqi efforts to maintain the the present state of no peace, no war between the two countries.

"The Islamic Republic by safeguarding its foreign policy based on the principles of the revolution and resistance against any political pressure, can disgrace Iraq and its supporters as it disappointed Baghdad in its aggression against Iran."

ABRAR suggested that the Iraqi regime "cannot do without the Arvand River" for a longer period of time as its inability to use the waterwar would in the long-run mean Baghdad had "given up its right to the border river."

"Taking advantage of the time factor by the Iraqi ruler might have proximated him to his aims for the moment but it will bring nothing for him in the long-run as the problems arised in the state of no peace, no war will equally effect the region," it noted.

The paper believed with the one year since the acceptance of the U.N. Resolution 598 by Iran, the time factor now seemed to be inclining toward Iran.

The paper advised the government should continue to disclose the aggressive nature of the Iraqi regime, exploit the time factor in achieving military self-sufficiency and strengthening the armed forces, and try to revive the peace talks in cooperation with the U.N. secretary general.

The daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI also said in an editorial that Iraq was dragging its feet in the peace talks because the implementation of any article of Resolution 598 would be "detrimental" to it as the initiator of the war.

"It is natural that Ba'thist Iraq, as the criminal side, will make efforts to impede the way to its (resolution's) full execution," it said.

The daily found the world forum, the Security Council in particular, obliged to act on their responsibilities and remove the obstacles towards full peace.

"The Baghdad regime has shown its evil side and practically proved that the state of no peace, no war is what the war criminals ruling Iraq long for," it concluded.

Iraqi Procrastination on Resolution Assailed

LD2307153889 Tehran IRNA in English 1458 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 23, IRNA—A senior military official today lashed out at the Ba'thist regime in Baghdad for its continued refusal to implement Article One of U.N. Resolution 598 which calls for withdrawal of troops to internationally-recognized borders.

Brigadier General 'Ali Seyyed Shirazi, representative of the Vali-e Faqih (supreme jurisprudent) to the Supreme Defence Council, added that the Iraqi regime by its continued occuaption of parts of Iranian soil has practically impeded enforcement of other articles of 598.

It is difficult for the Muslim combatants, he said, to see parts of their Islamic homeland under occupation, and it is only their spirit of obedience, which makes them hopeful of the outcome of the negotiations.

Shirazi said that since Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 last July 18, the armed forces headquarters has kept up effort to boost the combat prowess.

The alertness of the Muslim combatants during these very days last year was highly commendable, he noted, recalling operations 'Mirasad' (ambuscade) which routed the Iraqi backed Monafeqin (hypocrites) invasion of western Iran, following the acceptance of 598.

The brigadier-general warning that the Islamic revolution, since its victory in 1979, has always been exposed to plots of enemies, called on people to maintain their alertness under any circumstances.

Roundtable Discussion Marks UN Resolution 598

LD1807152689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0933 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Roundtable discussion by Tehran radio's "war unit" marking the anniversary of UN Resolution 598, with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Foreign Ministry Deputy Minister for International Affairs Lavasani, and a Foreign Ministry adviser, moderated by unidentified correspondent]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] [passage omitted] Dr Velayati, exactly a year has passed since the acceptance of Resolution 598. Four rounds of talks have taken place thus far; between the two countries' foreign ministers and also between delegations of experts. So far, notable success has not been achieved. I would be grateful if you could speak in that connection of the benefit of our compatriots.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Greetings to the dear listeners and to he honorable nation of Iran. And condolences for the occasion of the 40th day after the demise of his eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified. Let me say that the passing of 1 year since the acceptance of the resolution has revealed that, just as the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] previously predicted, Iraq does not want peace, because, with various excuses and through various means, it is refraining from implementing Resolution 598. This occurs under circumstances in which the IRI declared its preparedness, in all areas, to implement the resolution and provide that with actions.

For example, after cease-fire, it is time for withdrawal. Everyone knows that after accepting the resolution, the Islamic Republic of Iran withdrew from Iraqi territory. Iraq did just the opposite. After the acceptance of the resolution by the IRI, it invaded and occupied our territory and it continues to occupy it. Without any kind of authority or valid excuse, it continues that occupation.

At the moment, the cause of the existing deadlock, not to say dead end, in the resolution, or the implementation of the resolution, is the continuing occupation of our territory by Iraq.

[Correspondent] Yes. If you permit me, I would like to read the first article of Resolution 598 for our dear listeners. The first article states: The UN Charter requests that, as the first measure for resolving the Iran-Iraq dispute by means of negotiations, an immediate cease-fire should be observed; all military action on land, at sea, and in the air halted; and all forces returned without delay to recognized international borders. Just as you pointed out, part of that first article has been implemented—that is, the cease-fire. Another part is the withdrawal of forces, over which the Iraqi side is procrastinating. The Security Council and the permanent members of the Council are the initiators of the resolution, and they are, naturally, responsible for implementing and pursuing it. What has the Council done so far to break Iraq's procrastination?

[Velayati] All the members of the Security Council cannot be tarred with the same brush. That is to say, they have adopted a variety of positions. Some members of the Security Council have not given or are not giving any serious assistance to advance the resolution's implementation; whereas before the acceptance of the resolution by the IRI, those same members were putting pressure, in various ways, on the Islamic Republic so that it would openly accept Resolution 598.

Now that we have accepted, one cannot see those countries, or some of the permanent member countries of the Security Council, expending any effort or any serious effort toward the real implementation of Resolution 598.

Therefore, in view of the fact that the UN secretary-general cannot singlehandedly deal with the existing problems in the implementation of the resolution, especially Iraq's obstructionism, consequently, he must have the strong backing of the Security Council.

[Correspondent] Yes. Thank you Dr Velayati. Let me ask Mr Lavasani to explain the secretary-general's four-point plan, which is also known as the 1 October [1988] plan, for the sake of our listeners. What is the four-point plan? And what are the two countries' positions with respect to it?

[Lavasani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. With greetings to dear listeners, brothers and sisters. In order to comment on the secretary general's four-point plan of 1 October, it may be necessary to say something about the past events which led to the point when the secretary general proposed a plan on the first formal session of the two sides in New York.

During the months of July-August, in the wake of the IRI's acceptance of the resolution, the secretary general proposed a plan to the two sides. Which included a timetable for implementation of all articles of the resolution. Dr Velayati and his accompanying delegation discussed this plan in nine sessions of talks, and reached some positive conclusion, which meant a principled agreement if the IRI to implement this plan, guaranteeing implementation of all articles of the resolution. On the other hand, Iraq, whose foreign minister was in New York, refused to hold any discussion with the secretary general on the content and proposed to discuss everything, even the cease-fire, in face-to-face talks. During the first round of the direct talks, held in Geneva from 25 August 1988 under the auspices of the secretary general, the latter intended to raise the plan during the direct talks, as he told the IRI's foreign minister earlier in their meeting on the same day. Unfortunately, [Iraqi Foreign Minister] Tariq 'Aziz, by taking advantage of the session raised some conditions on implementation of the cease-fire, whereas on the basis of Iraq's admission and according to the secretary general's remarks, the issue of cease-fire was not a subject of the direct talks. One of these conditions was the issue of freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf and the other condition was the issue of dredging the Arvand River [Shatt al-'Arab]. Since Iraq intended to push these two issues into the first article of the resolution, the first round of talks in Geneva did not come to any conclusion. [passage omitted]

The first point of the four-point plan is about the withdrawal of forces. That is, the withdrawal behind the internationally recognized borders should have taken place after a short period. The UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIIMOG] forces were in charge of determining the extent of withdrawal. The criteria for the withdrawal were the documents in the United Nations on international borders and good-neighborliness between Iran and Iraq—the 1975 treaty. This was the first point of the four-point plan.

The second point of the four-point plan is considered as a move toward peace. That is, in the course of the peace move, the IRI and the opposing side would have agreed to give up imposition of their rights in international waters—that is, interception and inspection of hostile vessels. This would have been possible after the withdrawal of the forces.

The third point of the secretary general's four-point plan is about the exchange of POW's. As you know this is the same as article three of Resolution 598.

The fourth point is about starting the talks mentioned in the fourth article of the resolution. The fourth article of the resolution asks the secretary general to discuss with the two sides all the problems and ways of finding an overall solution. This is the first instance [in the resolution] when the two sides start direct talks. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Velayati, would you please comment.

[Velayati] Of course the IRI's acceptance of the four-point proposal is another sign of goodwill on our part since the reason for accepting the resolution was and is not a delaying tactic on our part, and just as his eminence, the imam—may his soul be sanctified—stated, this was not a tactical step as we seek a longlasting peace in the region.

As to why Iraq has not accepted this and what is the fate of the four-point proposal, after all, it should be said that just as Iraq is not ready to implement [Resolution] 598 in practice, then the four-point project too, which means the implementation of parts of 598, has fallen victim to this fate too, brought about by Iraq. Unfortunately, 9 months after the four-point proposal was presented by the UN secretary general, we still don't have any clear positions from Iraq. There were even times in the tripartite talks session when I said: Iraq has not yet accepted the four-point proposal; or, Iraq has rejected it—and so fourth—but the Iraqi foreign minister said in reply: No, we have not rejected the four-point proposal. So, you will note that they have neither accepted, nor have they not accepted. They have placed the issue on the fence, the result of which is to reduce pressure on Iraq without Iraq being bound to implement this project which, in the first place, necessitates the withdrawal of Iraqi forces. This way of keeping everything in the air means that one is playing with the resolution, and with the projects of the secretary general.

[Correspondent] Yes, the Arvand River was mentioned. I should like to ask Mr. Lavasani for additional comments on this subject so that our listeners will understand the issue more clearly.

[Lavasani] Before answering your question, please allow me to provide a preface to the comments and explanations given by Mr. Velayati in connection with the obstructionisms of the Iraqi regime and the implementation of the resolution. With the preconditions set by Iraq for direct negotiations before the cease-fire, Iraq demonstrated that it does not want the resolution to be implemented. The second point is that when this continued—that is after we accepted the resolution and when Iraq deployed chemical weapons on an extensive scale on the fronts, and continued the war, and when the resistant people of Iran—ready for struggle after the historical message of the imam—demonstrated once again that epic- making spirit which they had found at the start of war, then Iraq was forced to accept the

cease-fire. The third point is that during this year of negotiations Iraq laid down preconditions for the implementation of the resolution which were the question of the dredging and that of freedom of navigation—the latter issue has been mentioned and I shall embark on the question of dredging.

Iraq started the imposed war with several goals in mind, including the question of sovereignty over all the Arvand River, but after 8 years of the imposed war, it did not achieve any success in this expansionist aim. Now it is trying to pursue the same aims and achieve these in the peace negotiations—aims which it failed to achieve in the war. I should like to mention several points here very briefly on the part of brothers who were involved in the negotiations, headed by Dr Velayati, with Iraq on the other side.

One is that the 1975 agreement between Iran and Iraq—despite Iraq unilaterally declaring this null and void,—maintains its validity and authority. The second point is that the land and water borders of the two countries are clearly specified and the the Thalweg line is the common Iran-Iraq border. In very simple words, half of the Arvand River belongs to Iran. The third point is that the dredging of the Arvand River must be carried out on the basis of what has been stated in the resolution and under the supervision of the Iran-Iraq joint coordination committee. The fourth point is that this question of dredging should have certainly been carried out after the [troop] withdrawal had been realized.

Any kind of effort on the part of Iraq, in this connection up to now and also in the future, will meet with defeat, because, this question of dredging has not only not been mentioned in the resolution but it has its own criterion and conditions. As I have mentioned, there is no other solution save to follow the rules which were set down in 1975. Our reply, in this connection is very clear and convincing: We cannot give precedence to something which has certain rules attached to it that were mentioned in the 1975 [agreement] and about which there is no mention in Resolution 598—I mean dredging—we cannot place it before withdrawal. Just as I have mentioned, if withdrawal does take place, then there will be no problems for us to carry out the task of dredging on the basis of conditions contained in the 1975 agreement.

If you permit me, I will say something more on this point. Certain developments and changes have also been observed in Iraq's viewpoints regarding the task of dredging, during the course of these five rounds of negotiations. In the first round of the talks, Iraq insisted a lot on the question of dredging, because it is a vital issue for Iraq, activating its ports. In the second round of the negotiations, Iraq linked the issue of freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf and the Straits of Hormuz to the question of dredging and said explicitly that the freedom of navigation without the dredging is not important to it. And in the fifth and final round of the talks, with total surprise- - just as a liar or one seeking a pretext reveals their true face—it explictly said, the Iraqi foreign minister said, that they have no need for their ports to begin their activities again in the Arvand River, that they can mobilize their resources in other fields, and—what was surprising—is that they felt sorry for us, arguing how we could make our ports active again if the Arvand River were not to be cleared. This shift in their viewpoints on the dredging issue categorically demonstrates their search for pretexts to avoid implementing the resolution. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] I would be grateful to Dr Lavasani if he could speak about Iraq's obstructionism in the process of exchanging POW's. Before answering, however, let me read, for our dear listeners' benefit, the third article of Resolution 598. The UN Charter says that POW's should be released and, after the cessation of (?hostilities), in accordance with third Geneva convention, dated 2 August 1949, repatriated without delay. Mr Lavasani.

[Lavasani] In connection with the POW's, it is one of the issues in which Iraq has shown its obstructionism in practice and that it is lying about the implementation of the resolution and its desire for peace. The POW issue fits in with that attitude. The question of POW's is a humanitarian issue for us. Iraq, however, unfortunately, wants to use that as an instrument for destroying the integrity of the resolution. It is trying to put forward the question of POW's before the matter of withdrawal, which is a necessary and binding matter. And bringing forward the POW issue has led to the destruction of the integrity and uniformity of the resolution, because the POW's question is to be examined under the third article of the resolution, while the withdrawal issue is in the first article, or the second half of the first article. And, while the second half of the first article has not been implemented, the rest cannot be examined. That must be recognized; it must be understood. Why? Because the possibility exists that if we succumb to Iraqi pressure in connection with the exchange of POW's before withdrawal, not only will the resolution lose its integrity and its validity but withdrawal will not have taken place either, and the possibility will exist that in the end the question of POW's, in view of Iraq's obstructionism thus far, will once again be delayed.

A point worth mentioning here is that during the past year, that is during the war and during the past year, we have registered approximately 50,000 Iraqi POW's whereas the number of POW's registered in Iraq is less than 19,000. One thing which is clear is that the number of the two sides' POW's has become equivalent, in other words, they are roughly equal. And it is unreasonable to take up another issue before the registration of POW's has become equivalent, that is, before the two countries' registered POW's is around 50,000.

[Correspondent] What that means is that about 25,000 Iranian POW's have not yet been registered?

[Lavasani] About 30,000 have not been registered. Of course, the figure could be even greater than that, because the number of our POW's is more than 50,000. And we have presented the matter by means of documents both to the Red Cross and to the Iraqis. And Iraqi officials themselves, including the Iraqi foreign minister and the governor of Basra, have recently admitted that in the year ending 20 March 1989, they captured 25,000 POW's. That reveals the lack of equivalence and balance in the number of POW's registered in the two countries. That is something which must be fulfilled before anything else in that connection. Numerous contacts have been made with the Red Cross. And we hope, just as Dr Velayati seriously raised that issue in his recent talks with the secretary-general, that a serious step can be taken in connection with the POW's.

Another point worth mentioning is that the secretary general foresaw that the exchange of POW's would take place within 90 days. If, from the beginning of the acceptance of the resolution by us that matter—that is, the resolution—had been implemented we would be free of the POW issue now. Even when the four-point plan was presented by the secretary general and was accepted by us in principle—and with respect to which Iraq has given no reply until now—even if at that date the matter had been accepted and if the POW issue had been settled in accordance with the secretary general's proposal—who set a 90-day period for it—again, the exchange of POW's would have been finished. This very issue of POW's and the absence of an exchange is another sign of Iraq's obstructionism and a reflection of its disinclination to implement the resolution. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Thank you. Dr Velayati, in his remarks Mr Lavasani raised the issue of the 1975 accord. However, the accord may not be entirely clear to our listeners. I would be grateful if you would say something about that in view of the fact that the accord was unilaterally annulled and torn up by Iraq in front of television cameras.

[Velayati] Let me first answer the last part of your question. Even though Iraq may tear up a document for show, the accord remains in force. In other words, Iraq does not have that right. Nor does any other country which has signed a bilateral border accord with other countries have the right to unilaterally annul an accord. In addition, in the 1975 accord itself the manner of behaving toward the accord has been made clear and it has been stipulated how the parties can resolve differences. It leaves no room whatsoever for the unilateral annulment of the accord. International law also states the same thing.

That notwithstanding, the 1975 accord is in fact a compilation of a number of agreements in the history of Iran's relations with its western neighbor, or neighbors. [passage omitted] It has been stressed in the accord that land borders will be at the same boundaries as those which were stipulated in 1913 and 1914. As for the Arvand River, about which no clear or serious mention had been made at that time—in 1937 an agreement was signed in which the Arvand River and the border in the Arvand River were incompletely discussed. And in 1975 that discussion was completed. [4-minute break in reception] That fact reveals that, from the UN's point of view, the 1975 accord remains valid. In the talks we had with the UN secretary general—and they were official talks; it was an official meeting—the secretary general was asked the following by me: In your view, does the 1975 accord continue to be in force? His reply—very clearly—was affirmative. And in response to my question to him as to what the four-point plan [passage indistinct].

The reason for Iraq's refusal to accept the 1975 treaty, according to what we have heard from world statesmen, is its internal problems. This is something that a number of responsible officials from both Arab and non-Arab states have explicitly told us. You, therefore, see that legally, politically, and internationally we do not have any problem with the 1975 treaty; and the 1975 treaty is still valid. Some members of the Security Council also know this and all the legal and political forums of the world accept this too. Some of them admit this, but some others remain silent because of their political interests and mutual ties with Iraq. You witnessed that during His Excellency Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's trip to Moscow, the spokesman for the USSR Foreign Ministry, during a news conference, anounced that in their opinion the Algerian Treaty is still valid. You cannot find another country like Iraq in the world to deny this. That is, the issue is so clear and there are so many strong documents and arguments in its favour that no one should dare say anything against it, except Iraq, whose government is based on creating dificulties for its neighbors.

[Correspondent] What does the 1975 treaty say about the Arvand River?

[Velayati] The Thalweg is an imaginary line in the deepest part of the river. One cannot therefore say that it is right in the middle. Basically it is a new law international relations to make the Thalweg a border between two countries. Almost in all border rivers of the world the same law applies [as heard]. An independent chapter of the 1975 treaty is about Arvand River, discussing dredging, shipping, and border issues of this river. That is, the 1975 treaty has clearly explained these points; and what Mr Lavasani said is a very accurate and logical argument we have. The 1975 treaty explained how the river should be dredged and any other proposal will in practice weaken the 1975 treaty. This is unanimously approved by top lawyers. In view of the Iraqi officials' contradictory remarks—saying that the river should be dredged as part of the cease-fire—it becomes clear that they are only playing with words. They have other intentions which they do not wish to publicize. However, we have understood this from the start. From now on we will pursue our previously declared method, which is very clear. Resolution 598 must be implemented and we

reject all obstacles created to prevent this. Implementation of Resolution 598 should not be at the expense of invalidating other border treaties and should not undermine other principles either. [passage omitted]

GDR Official's View of UN Resolution 598 Noted

LD1207174589 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—The German Democratic Republic (GDR) will employ all its efforts for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 598, GDR Deputy Foreign Minister Werner Krolikowski told Iranian Ambassador Hamid Reza Asefi in East Berlin Tuesday.

Referring to the demise of the leader of the Islamic revolution Krolikowski termed Imam Khomeyni as "an exalted and extraordinary [word indistinct] forgotten in the history."

He also expressed sympathy with the Iranian nation on the loss of the imam.

Asefi in reply stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue the same policy set by Imam Khomeyni.

Paper Analyzes Qasemlu Assassination

NC2407193289 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 16 Jul 89 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Why Qasemlu?"]

[Text] Reports of the assassination of 'Abdolrahman Qasemlu, head of the defunct Kurdish Democratic Party, in the Austrian capital Vienna, make one ask first of all: What was he sacrificed for?

There is no doubt that Qasemlu's murder was committed by mercenaries of the Iraqi Ba'thist party with the intelligence cooperation of the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq]. The facts of the case are so clear that any doubts can only result from naivete. Therefore, the main issue here is not who killed Qasemlu; the main issue is why he was killed.

If we want to put this question in a better way, we should ask: Why did the Baghdad regime chose Qasemlu as its victim?

The answer to this question can be seen clearly in relation to several developments:

1. Qasemlu was killed after he had met with a representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to discuss ways of surrendering to the Islamic Republic of Iran and an amnesty. In addition to Qasemlu, one of his associates as well as a person named Dr Fazel, who was the representative of Talebani [leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan] in these talks and who played the role of mediator, were also killed, while the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran was severely wounded. It was he who, despite his serious injuries, went to the Austrian police and told them what had happened.

It appears that the Iraqi regime felt its interests would be threatened by Qasemlu's surrender. Thus it chose to remove him so that he would not have the chance to do so.

2. In recent weeks, Qasmlu was the target of the Monafeqin's severe and extensive propaganda and the Monafeqin organization strongly condemned him for trying to surrender to the Islamic Repubic of Iran and for putting an end to his obstinacy and hostility toward his country's people. This situation reminds one of the propaganda that the Monafeqin organization has directed against Qasemlu over the past few years which led to his and his party's withdrawal from the so-called Resistance Council.

3. Recently one of the members of the Monafeqin organization who left the group because of continued internal discord and so he could rejoin his nation and his family was attacked in Pakistan where he and his parents had gone on their way back to this country. Fortunately the attacker was arrested by the Pakistani police and questioned. This attempted murder shows the extent of the Monafeqin's fear of the return of counterrevolutionary elements and of their break with the front that opposes the Islamic Republic. They see no alternative but assassinations in order to prevent this. This was once again manifested in the assassination of Qasemlu in the form of intelligence cooperation between the Monafeqin and the Iraqi regime.

After examining all these points, there can be no doubt that Saddam's regime chose Qasemlu for annihilation this time to prove that it will not tolerate the least bit of disobedience on the part of those elements that cooperate with it and that it will not grant them the opportunity to think or to make their own decisions. The Qasemlu incident should be a big lesson for all those who cooperate with the Ba'thist regime in one way or another.

Oil Minister Assesses Talks With Turkey

LD2107124289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Mr Ilhan Askin, Turkish minister of state for oil, has been visiting Tehran to discuss the purchase of oil from Iran. Askin met officials and held talks with Petroleum Minister Aqazadeh and visited the Abadan refinery and some of our country's oil installations. He left Tehran this morning with the petroleum minister seeing him off.

On the results of the visit by the Turkish minister of state, our correspondent has interviewed Petroleum Minister Aqazadeh.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Aqazadeh, during the discussions with the Turkish minister of state, Turkey asked to buy oil from the Islamic Republic of Iran. Please tell us the outcome of the discussions.

[Aqazadeh] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As you pointed out, we had several rounds of discussions with the Turkish Minister of state. He also met with the prime minister and Mr Nabavi [minister of heavy industries].

In this round of talks, we agreed to supply them with 5 million tonnes of crude oil. As for the price, [trade] relations between our countries are based on barter. Our purchases of goods from Turkey, which are not based on the normal international means but on the basis of the [results of] two discussions on the sidelines... [Aqazadeh changes thought] therefore, we used to get an extra amount of around a dollar from them. [sentence as heard] Over the past few years, this led to a surcharge on top of the official prices.

In this round of discussions, they asked for a discount regarding this issue, and, taking the market situation and (?other things) into consideration, we felt that our discussions should continue. It was decided that he would go back to consult with officials in his country and it was decided that our discussions will continue in Turkey until we reach a final result.

Of course, we have good trade relations with Turkey and previously there were talks about various projects. We held discussions on these projects too. My next visit we will probably discuss them again. They concern possible joint cooperation on projects.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

Natural Gas Export Accord With USSR Endorsed

LD2307134889 Tehran IRNA in English 1343 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 23, IRNA—An agreement on Iran's annual export of three billion cubic meters of natural gas to the Soviet Union at international prices has been endorsed in Moscow by Iranian and Soviet officials.

The pact was endorsed Saturday by Iranian Deputy Minister of Economics and Financial Affairs 'Ali Majedi and head of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Konstantin Katushev.

Moscow has also agreed that the Islamic Republic of Iran could export its natural gas to Europe via Soviet territory.

Among other topics discussed by the two was mutual cooperation in gas exploration and exploitation.

NWFP Governor's Bail Petition Dismissed

BK2607083489 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] A division bench of the Supreme Court in Lahore today dismissed a bail application moved on behalf of Lieutenant General, Retired, Fazle Haq, former governor and caretaker chief minister of the North-West Frontier Province [NWFP]. The bench comprised Mr Justice Shafiur Rahman and Mr Justice Saad Sayeed Jan.

Shi'ites Mark Leader's Death in Peshawar

BK2507170089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1650 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, July 25 (AFP)—Over 10,000 Shi'ite Moslems shouted anti-American slogans at a rally here Tuesday [25 July] to commemorate the first anniversary of the gunning down of their leader Arif Hussain al-Hussaini.

Shi'ite leaders from all over Pakistan paid homage to Mr. Hussaini and urged the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to "quickly do justice and hang his assassins," who have not been identified.

They warned the government that they would "take revenge" themselves if the killers were not "hanged immediately."

Participants in the rally shouted slogans such as "Down with America" and praised the late Iranian spiritual leader, the Ayatollah Khomeyni.

Speakers at the gathering criticized the former military governor of North West Frontier Province (NWFP), Fazle Haq, who was arrested last weekend after being implicated in Mr. Hussaini's murder and the Peshawar high court rejected a bail plea from Mr. Haq.

Mr. Hussaini was considered the ayatollah's deputy by the Shi'ite community here. He was president of the political and religious group Tehrek-e-Nifaz Fiqah Jafria (Movement for the Implementation of Shi'ite Code).

There are about 20 million Shi'ites in Pakistan which has a Sunni-dominated population of over 100 million people, according to community sources.

Prior to Mr. Haq's arrest, the community had threatened to carry out protest rallies across the country.

Mr. Haq, a retired general and close associate of the late President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has claimed that he had been "falsely implicated" by a statement from an alleged hired assassin, Siaj, who is in police custody.

Advocate S.M. Zafar, a former law minister who is defending the retired general, said the case, based on an alleged criminal's statement, was aimed at "damaging the political career" of Mr. Haq, who is a leader of the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI).

Sri Lanka

Tamil National Council Formed by 3 Parties

BK2507161189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] As a new turn to the political events in the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka, three Tamil groups—EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] and ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front] have formed a front called Tamil National Council to fight for the cause of the Tamil. This was jointly announced by the leaders of the groups in Trincomalee today. They said the council has been formed to achieve the aspirations of the Tamil-speaking people and establish their right to self-determination.

Sinhalese Rebels Suspected of Bombing Indian Bank

BK2607080889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0747 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] Colombo, July 26 (AFP)—Suspected Sinhalese rebels lobbed three bombs into the State Bank of India in the Sri Lankan capital Wednesday, eyewitnesses said.

The number of injured was not immediately known.

Unidentified men flung three bombs through an open window into the bank, situated a stone's throw distance from President Ranasinghe Premadasa's heavily-guarded official residence.

The bank was closing but there were more than 100 employees and customers inside when the attack occurred, Bank Manager B.P. Aggarwal said.

Army 'Allegedly' Shells EPRLF Office

BK2607044089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0433 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Colombo, July 26 (AFP) - A rocket allegedly fired by the Sri Lankan Army blasted the office of a Tamil political party in the island's north, killing one person and seriously injuring two, a spokesman said Wednesday.

The rocket landed on the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) office in Kilinochchi Town late Tuesday, an EPRLF spokesman said by telephone from Vavuniya Town, 250 kilometers (156 miles) north of here.

The spokesman said there were three EPRLF members in the office at the time of the attack. The two who were injured had been hospitalised.

"We are sure it is the SLA (Sri Lankan Army) which fired the rocket," he said. "Our boys have told us that the rocket came from the direction of the SLA camp." He could not say why the SLA would have attacked the EPRLF office.

Defence officials here were not immediately available for comment. The spokesman did not give any other details. [passage omitted]

LTTE Cadres Surrender; Strike Held in Jaffna

BK2507131489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, six LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] cadres, including an area leader, have surrendered to the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] in Muttur area in Trincomalee District. Official sources said that surrenders are taking place in various other parts of Northeastern Province also. This followed an appeal from the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front], and TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] to the LTTE. The surrendered LTTE men told the PKF of their desire to join the reconstruction work in the province.

In Jaffna today, a total hartal [strike] was observed in memory of those killed in the Welikadai jail massacre on this day in 1983. Fifty-three Tamil fighters were killed in the massacre. The EPRLF, ENDLF, and TELO, which called the 1-day hartal, have also given a mourning call for a week.

LTTE Denies 'Rumors' of Prabhakaran's Death

BK2507112089 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leadership says that rumors that Mr Prabhakaran is dead is totally false. It says it has been planted by interested parties to create confusion in the minds of the Tamil-speaking people in the north and east and to achieve their own ends.

It adds that Mr Prabhakaran is alive and will continue to be the leader of the LTTE.

Minister Says 472 Killed During Last 25 Days

BK2107032589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government has said that killings by Sinhala extremists trying to overthrow the government are continuing despite the crackdwon. The Sri

Lankan minister for parliamentary affairs, Mr Vincent Perera, told Parliament in Colombo that 472 people have been killed during the last 25 days.

Initiating the debate on the law and order situation in the country, the Sri Lankan Freedom Party leader, Mr Maithripala Senanayake, regretted that the situation has worsened since the imposition of the emergency. He described it as critical and blamed the government for its inability to check the spread of violence. He said despite press censorship, the people of Sri Lanka have realized that the government cannot control the situation.

The United Socialist Alliance leader, Mr (Athauda Senaviratne), charged the government of raising an anti-Indian bogey to divert the people's attention from spiralling prices. He appealed to the Premadasa government not to drag the country into chaos by unleashing an anti-Indian tirade, as it is already facing many problems.

Later, Mr Perera moved the motion seeking an extension of the state of emergency for another month.

Legal Process on Devolution of Power 'Completed'
BK2507120489 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] The legal process relating to the devolution of power on provincial councils has been completed. What remains to be done is for the provincial councils to take the consequential steps to organize themselves and exercise the power which is constitutionally devolved upon them.

At a meeting of all cabinet ministers, all chief ministers of provincial councils, and key officials of the government chaired by the president on the functioning of provincial councils, certain decisions were made to facilitate and expedite the devolution of power on the provincial councils. Consequent to that meeting, several meaningful steps have already been taken to this end.

The government had taken certain initiatives to assist the provincial councils in developing the organizational structure, determine its cadre and staff. A subcommittee of officers have already developed the organizational structure for the provincial councils. Steps are being taken to release the other resources and assets along with the staff for the operation of the provincial councils. This process of transferring other resources and assets is already under way.

Buddhist Monks' Resolution on IPKF Withdrawal
BK2507115389 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Excerpts] A resolution calling upon all the communities in the country to work in unison to get the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] withdrawn from Sri Lanka was adopted by the National Congress of the Sri Lanka Mahasangha [Buddhist clergy] at a meeting held in the Maha Bodhi Vihara in (Maligatam) yesterday. Nearly 3,000 Bhikkhus [monks] attended the meeting. [passage omitted]

The conference also criticized the government for allowing the Indian troops into the country under an accord designed to end hostilities in the north and east.

A spokesman for the Sri Lanka National Bhikkhu Federation said the Buddhist monks had decided to treat the Indian force as an army of occupation if they did not leave the country by the 29th of this month as requested by President Premadasa. He said that monks were prepared to sacrifice even thousands of their lives, if necessary, to drive the Indian Army out.

Tamil Leader Criticizes Premadasa on IPKF Issue
BK2207034389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] The chairman of the London-based Tamil action committee, Mr (Sinnapoo Marasingham), has said the Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa, has no mandate to ask the PKF [peacekeeping force] to go because of the superceding legal entrenchment of the accord between the governments of Sri Lanka and India. Talking to our correspondent in New Delhi, he said if the PKF leaves there could be a bloodbath following a civil strife.

An unconfirmed report emanating from Colombo says that the Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa, in his latest communication addressed to Mr Rajiv Gandhi and reportedly delivered by the Sri Lankan High Commissioner in New Delhi has indicated Sri Lankan Government's willingness for the phased withdrawal of PKF with some conditions.

The PKF has destroyed four major LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] camps and another four satellite camps in Mawila and (Toppimalai). Six militants have been killed and a large quantity of arms and ammunition recovered in Jaffna. Five Muslim LTTE militants have surrendered to the PKF. They said they were treated very badly by the LTTE leadership.

Islamabad Reports Khan's Meeting With Premadasa
BK2307025689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has said that bilateral relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka are marked by close friendship and understanding. In a special message, which Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan conveyed to President Ranasinghe Premadasa during his brief visit to Colombo, the prime minister expressed the hope that Sri Lanka's problems with India will be resolved on the basis of equity and justice.

President Premadasa, reciprocating the sentiments, appreciated the friendship and understanding between Pakistan and Sri Lanka and expressed the confidence

that their bilateral ties will be further strengthened and consolidated.

In a statement issued by the Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry, President Premadasa said that Sri Lanka is deeply committed to the objectives of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC].

After calling on President Premadasa, the Pakistani foreign minister also held talks with his Sri Lankan counterpart Ranjan Wijeratne in Colombo. They exchanged views on the future of the SAARC summit. According to Sri Lankan officials, the Pakistan foreign minister expressed the hope that the problems preventing Sri Lanka from attending the SAARC ministerial session would soon be resolved.